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Tuesday,
24th November, 1953

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

## HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

### OFFICIAL REPORT

PARLIAMENT SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

*Price Six Annas (Inland)*
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THE

# PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

## (Part I—Questions and Answers)

## OFFICIAL REPORT

Dated......24.11.201



## HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

*Tuesday, 24th November, 1953*

*The House met at Half Past One of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### KENYA

*227. **Shri S. N. Das:** (a) Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state whether any attempt has been made by the European Settlers to change the present policy concerning immigration of people into the Colony of Kenya which may lead to legal discrimination against Indians or prohibition of Indian immigration?

(b) If so, what is the nature of attempt so far made?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** (a) Yes.

(b) Through articles in the press and by passing resolutions at meetings of European Settllers.

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know whether attempts are being made by the European community in Kenya to give preference in their policy of immigration to the continental Europeans who are not even citizens of the Commonwealth?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Certainly. They give preference to the entry of Europeans. Whether these Europeans are citizens of the Commonwealth or not, I do not know; but I think they prefer pro-Europeans to Asians.

**Shri S. N. Das:** May I know, whether it is a fact that a large number of European members of the Kenya Legislature have made a statement suggesting that there should be such a control on immigration, particularly from the East, as will preserve the western character of the civilisation of Kenya and they can have a white reserve?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Yes, Sir.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know whether the question relating to Indian citizenship in Commonwealth countries was discussed when the Prime Ministers met some time back?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** No, Sir. It was not discussed. There was nothing to discuss in the Prime Ministers' Conference. The question of Indian citizenship is entirely for this Parliament to decide and not for any Conference elsewhere.

May I add one more word, Sir? The principle laid down some three or four years ago was this, that India will decide on a reciprocal basis in regard to each Commonwealth country. For instance, in regard to South Africa, there is a break—a complete break. In regard to some other countries, they allow us some privileges; we allow them some privileges. So, it depends upon each country.

### CABLES

***228. Sardar Hukam Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state the length of underground cables that would be required to meet the demands of the country during 1953-54?

(b) What is the source of the supply of this demand?

(c) What is the percentage of total demand that would be met by indigenous production, and of that which would be purchased from elsewhere?

(d) Has any order been placed for the supply of cables with a Dutch Cable manufacturing firm?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) About 600 miles.

(b) By import from U. K., Germany, Holland, Denmark and Japan.

(c) There is at present no indigenous production.

(d) Yes, Sir.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** May I know how this contract was negotiated: either by tenders or through private channels?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** It was not a single contract, and if notice is given, I will collect details in regard to each tender.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** If it was not a single contract, may I know whether all the contracts for the purchase of these cables were placed with one and the same firm?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** I have already indicated that the imports are from Germany, Holland, Denmark, Japan and U.K. and presumably the firms in these countries are different. Orders have been placed with one firm in Holland, another in Germany, another in Denmark and the fourth one in U. K.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** What is the value of the contract that has been recently placed with the Dutch firm?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** The order is for 265 miles of wire in length, valued at Rs. 78,39,371.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** May I know whether this particular contract was by negotiation or by tender?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** That deos not arise out of the main question. If separate notice is given, I shall give the details.

**Mr. Speaker:** Next question.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** I request your ruling whether this arises or not. He is definite that the particular contract was (*Interruption*)

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not think I need decide it, because I am going to the next question.

### फिल्में

***२३०. सेठ गोविन्द दास:** क्या **सूचना तथा प्रसारण** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) सन् १९५३ में जनवरी से सितम्बर तक कितनी संस्थाओं को प्रदर्शन के लिए सरकार द्वारा निर्मित फिल्में प्रदान की गईं; तथा

(ख) १९५३ में सरकार का फिल्मों के निर्माण पर कितना व्यय हुआ ?

**The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar):** (a) 181, 489 and 27 institutions respectively received films from the Films Division, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health during the period from January to September, 1953.

(b) In the absence of cost accounting, separate figures of expenditure on production of films are not available; cost of production of a documentary is, however, estimated as varying between Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 25,000 and of a newsreel to be about Rs. 10,000.

**सेठ गोविन्द दास** : जिन संस्थाओं ने इन फिल्मों को मंगाया, प्रदर्शन के लिये, क्या वे सब इसी देश की हैं या इस देश के बाहर की हैं ?

**डा० केसकर** : जिन संस्थाओं ने इस मिनिस्ट्री से फिल्म मंगाया वे संस्थायें इसी देश की हैं। अधिकांश संस्थायें जो विदेशों से फिल्म्स मंगाती हैं वे विदेश विभाग से मंगाती हैं।

**सेठ गोविन्द दास** : यह जो फिल्म्स यहां परे बनाये गये, वह किन किन भाषाओं में बने ?

**डा० केसकर** : इस क लिय मुझे नोटिस चाहिये।

**सेठ गोविन्द दास** : इधर सितम्बर से जनवरी तक इन फिल्मों पर जो खर्च हुआ वह इस के पहले जो खर्च हुआ था उस से कुछ ज्यादा था, या कम था या उतना ही था ?

**डा० केसकर** : खर्च में किसी तरह की वृद्धि नहीं हुई है, लेकिन जैसा मैं ने अपने उत्तर में कहा, हर एक फिल्म का खर्च कोई एकसा नहीं होता क्योंकि फिल्म्स के लिये कई जगह जाना पड़ता है और फोटो लेना पड़ता है। इसलिये हर फिल्म का खर्च अलग होता है। लेकिन इसका ऐवरेज निकाला जाता है जो कि मैंने अभी आपको बताया।

**सेठ अचल सिंह** : क्या मंत्री महोदय बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि शिक्षा तथा सार्वजनिक संस्थाओं को किन शर्तों पर यह फिल्म उधार दी जाती है ?

**डा० केसकर** : ठीक ठीक दाम तो मैं नहीं बता सकता, लेकिन बहुत कम दाम पर सार्वजनिक और शिक्षा संस्थाओं को यह फिल्में दी जाती हैं।

**Shri D. C. Sharma:** May I know if the distribution of these films is spread evenly over all the States of India?

**Dr. Keskar:** I cannot say that, because it depends upon the demand. We do not distribute it. It is not a question of distribution. It is a question of those who want to have these films. Naturally, there are some institutions or some areas where there is a greater demand, but I will have to study it more carefully before I can give an answer as to from which part there is the greatest demand.

**Mr. Speaker:** I am going to the next question.

NORTH EAST FRONTIER AGENCY

*231. **Shri Amjad Ali:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 1372 on the 17th September, 1953 and state:

(a) whether Government propose to continue the permit system in North East Frontier Agency; and

(b) whether *bona fide* social workers have liberal and easy entry in North East Frontier Agency?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri J. N. Hazarika):** (a) Yes.

(b) *Bona fide* social workers are always welcome, but each case has to be considered on its merits and having regard to the area to be visited. Communications are difficult and special arrangements have often to be made.

**Shri Amjad Ali:** With regard to (a), may I know when and for what particular purpose the pemit system was first introduced in the N. E. Frontier Agency in Assam?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** The pemit system was originally introduced in 1873 and applied to most of the hill portion, not the plain portion. What the purpose was in doing that on that date, I cannot offhand say, excepting that it was perhaps the intention of the then Government not to allow people

to go there. But it is continued now for a variety of reasons. Only recently hon. Members must be aware that there was a tragic incident there. It is a very mixed area: some semi-administered; some not administered, and difficulties arise. Our normal rule now is, so far as the inner line is concerned, not to allow any foreigner to go there except by very special permission. Indians can go there normally, but after taking permits.

**Shri Amjad Ali**: How far is this policy of isolation responsible for the current trouble in the N. E. Frontier Agency in Assam?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** It has nothing to do with it.

**Shri Amjad Ali:** I am referring to the fact that normally people are not allowed to go there and there is an isolation.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** In this particular part, there was some trouble. I doubt if anybody has gone there at all. Very rarely. It is quite outside the reach of normal travellers. If I may say so, we have had some unfortunate trouble—much more trouble in the areas where there is no permit system.

**Shrimati Khongmen:** May I know if a member of the local legislature or a Member of Parliament can go there now without a permit?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I have no doubt that he will be gladly given a permit. The difficulty is that it is not merely a question of giving a permit, but making arrangements for the persons to go to a large number of these areas. Without these arrangements, it is difficult for them to go.

**Shri Amjad Ali:** Would the Central Government find it difficult to transfer the administration of this area to the State of Assam?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** There is no difficulty, but it is not considered feasible or desirable.

INDIANS IN CEYLON

***232. Shrimati Kamlendu Mati Shah:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Ceylon is paying a visit to India for talks about Indian Settlers in Ceylon;

(b) whether Government are aware that Ceylon Government has decided to reintroduce the Immigration and Emigration Amendment Bill; and

(c) whether Government are making any move for the resumption of talks at an early date?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru)**: (a) and (c). The Prime Minister of Ceylon has been invited to visit India to continue the talks which his predecessor, Mr. Dudley Senanayake and I had in London. He has accepted this invitation, but no date for his visit to Delhi has yet been fixed.

(b) The bill is under the Ceylon Government's consideration. It has not been re-introduced in the Ceylon Parliament.

**Shrimati Kamalendu Mati Shah:** May I know, Sir, the number of persons that will be affected by the introduction of this Bill?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I am afraid I cannot answer that now.

**Shrimati Kamlendu Mati Shah:** May I know, Sir, what steps have Government taken to postpone introduction of this Bill the conclusion of further talks between the two Prime Ministers?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Of course, we have been in constant touch with the Ceylon Government and also pointed out to them how much unfortunate and harmful it will be for the Indians.

**Shri Radha Raman:** What was the nature of the objection or suggestions made by our Prime Minister to the Ceylon Government regarding the provisions of this Bill when it was referred to him?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** My letter ran into 7 or 8 foolscap sheets and so it is difficult to enumerate those things now.

MOTOR CARS (IMPORT)

*233. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state how many of the cars imported in 1951-52 and 1952-53 were meant for Government use and how many for private trade?

(b) When do Government expect to have indigenous motor car engines manufactured in sufficient number to meet their own requirements?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) Precise information is not available.

(b) It is too early at this stage to estimate the date by which the Industry will achieve self-sufficiency.

**Shri K. P. Sinha:** May I know, Sir, the three-year programme of Indian manufacturers?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The manufacturers have been asked to submit their programmes. Some of them have submitted them and others have not. We expect to get all the programmes before the end of the year.

**Shrimati A. Kale:** May I know, Sir, how many of the firms have submitted their programmes?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** As I have said already, the firms have been asked to submit their programmes and I believe three of them have submitted their plans and the other two have not. I expect that their plans also would be available to us by the end of the year.

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know, Sir, what are the difficulties in having precise information regarding the figures of imported motor cars?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Because the way in which our accounts are maintained does not indicate the figure for cars imported separately for Government and for private trade.

**Sardar Hukam Singh:** Hindustan Motors have put up their plant for the manufacture of engines in 1950. Have they been able to bring the production of engines for the use of Hindustan cars to a level which may be sufficient for themselves?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** The last that I have heard—early this year—was that they produced 27 per cent. of the parts of an engine. I believe they are likely to reach about 66 per cent. by the middle of 1954.

OIL REFINERIES

*236. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the preliminary and constructional works of the proposed Oil Refineries at Trombay Island have been completed;

(b) if so, how much steel and cement have been used for the purpose;

(c) whether necessary arrangements of roads and railway lines to connect it to the nearest port have been taken on hand; and

(d) how the supply of water will be met?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey):** (a) to (d). A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 14.]

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know, Sir, who will bear the cost of the arterial railway siding that is being constructed now?

**Shri R. G. Dubey:** I believe the Railway Ministry will bear that.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know, Sir, whether any company has come forward to undertake electric installation work?

**Shri R. G. Dubey:** Not to my knowledge.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know, Sir, how much foreign exchange will be saved when these factories will come into operation?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** I am sorry I cannot give a firm estimate of the figure.

**Shri Sarangadhar Das:** May I know, Sir, whether in case a railway siding is required by a factory,—whether new ones or old ones—the cost is paid by the firm itself and not by the Railway?

**Shri R. G. Dubey:** There are two aspects here. One is the arterial siding to be constructed from Kurla and terminated at Trombey—the cost for this will be borne by the Railway Ministry. Then there will be feeder lines, the cost for which will be borne by the respective firms

COMMUNITY PROJECT AT JHARGRAM

*237. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress made in the work of the Community Project Areas of Jhargram in the district of Midnapur in West Bengal; and

(b) whether the advice and co-operation of the local M.P., M.L.A. and M.L.C. is being sought in this connection?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 15.]

(b) Information is awaited from the State Government.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know, Sir, whether M.Ps., M.L.As., and M.L.Cs. were invited to the inauguration ceremony of the Community Project?

**Shri Hathi:** I have no information about that.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know Sir, what sort of co-operation is being taken from these non-officials and whether advisory committee meetings are called now and then?

**Shri Hathi:** Advisory Committee meetings are called. From the report it appears that the contribution of the villagers also is quite satisfactory.

**Shri B. K. Das:** May I know, Sir, what progress has been made regarding building the township and starting industry?

**Shri Hathi:** So far as this project is concerned—community project—the main work that is to be done is on irrigation, agricultural produce and so forth.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** Is it not a fact that every Community Project has got an Advisory Committee and in that Committee the local M.Ps., M.L.As. and M.L.Cs. are made members?

**Shri Hathi:** Exactly. Every project has an Advisory Committee and the Planning Commission have suggested to the States that each Advisory Committee should consist of, or include, local M.Ps., Members of the local Assembly, Members of the District Board, representatives of the village panchayat, social workers, etc.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** The statement here says that work in this field (agriculture) was done under the normal development programme of the State Government. May I know whether when such normal works are done in these areas, officers on the normal side and officers on the project side differ and if so, what steps are taken at that time?

**Shri Hathi:** Generally, Sir, the whole thing is a co-ordinated programme. The project officers have to work in full co-operation with the administrative machinery. So the Agricultural Department naturally has to co-operate with the project officers.

INDIAN TURPENTINE OIL

*238. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian turpentine oil has a low pinene content;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to utilise the other rich contents in the oil to make pinene content available for the starting material for the synthesis of camphor; and

(c) how the pinene contents of the indigenous turpentine oil and the imported ones compare?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In view of the low pinene content of indigenous turpentine oil, it has not been found commercially feasible to utilise it for the manufacture of synthetic camphor. Research work on the utilisation of the other constituents of Indian turpentine oil is in progress at the Central Laboratories, Hyderabad, and National Chemical Laboratory, Poona.

(c) The alpha and beta pinene content of indigenous turpentine oil varies from 8 to 39 per cent. while the pinene content of foreign turpentine oil varies from 96 per cent. to 64 per cent.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know whether research is being made to utilize carene and lengifolene which are useful in the production of insecticides?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Yes, Sir. I understand that research on the utilization of carene and longifolene in the manufacture of synthetic products is being carried on in those laboratories.

**Shri S. C. Samanta:** May I know the other things in which these constituents may be made useful?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I am afraid it is a very highly technical matter. Even though I have some information, I would not like to hazard an opinion.

IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN BOMBAY

*239. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has sanctioned any amount for medium-sized irrigation projects and contour bunding for the Bombay State;

(b) if so, what is the amount;

(c) what are the conditions, if any, attached to the sanctioning of the amount;

(d) how many irrigation and contour bunding projects are going to be undertaken and in which areas; and

(e) how much amount is going to be allotted to each project?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) to e(). Irrigation works costing Rs. 4·87 crores during the Plan period are proposed to be undertaken in the scarcity affected areas of Bombay State. These works include the following projects:—

(i) Ghod.

(ii) Extension of Krishna Canal.

(iii) Mossan Bhandare

(iv) Pushpavathi.

(v) Fatewadi (Stage II)

(vi) Patadaungri.

(vii) Bhudial Tank

(viii) Bhandaras on:

(a) Tarali

(b) Unnudi.

(ix) Contour Bunds.

The detailed allotments and the conditions on which assistance for these works will be provided are under consideration in consultation with the Government of Bombay.

**Shri Dabhi:** May I know how many acres of land are likely to be brought under irrigation when these projects are completed?

**Shri Hathi:** 1,09,000 acres.

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know whether it is one of the conditions attached that the Bombay Government should spend the amounts within the scheduled time?

**Shri Hathi:** The money is to be granted for these particular projects.

**Shri S. S. More:** Can the Minister give us break up of the amount allotted

for Maharashtra, Gujrat and Karnataka?

**Shri Hathi:** I require notice.

ACCUMULATION OF CLOTH IN MILLS

***241. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of unsold cloth, lying with the mills till the end of October 1953; and

(b) the reasons for the large accumulation of cloth in the mills?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) 421,625 bales of 1,500 yards as on 31st October, 1953.

(b) The reasons are many—the more important ones being high level of production, prolongation of the monsoon period which put off purchases by the trade and partly resistance to the price levels due to expectations of decrease in prices on the part of the trade or inability to buy on the part of the consumer in some areas in the country.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** May I know whether there has been an overall increase in the production of cloth after the change-over to de-control of price and distribution?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I won't say that. But I think we have been producing cloth at a very high level almost from the middle of 1952 and that high level of production is being maintained.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** Do the Government propose or have the Government conducted an enquiry to find out whether there has been a wide gap between the purchasing capacity of the people and the production of cloth in the mills?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** That, I am afraid, is a matter for which we have to depend upon our Central Statistical Organisation. But it is undoubtedly a fact that from the study of the movement of the cloth from the producing areas, more cloth has been moving into the northern parts of India, whereas in Central India and the South, consumption has been on the low side. It was presumably because last year monsoon conditions in those areas had been rather bad. The expectations are that the consumption in the country will be one of general improvement during 1954, provided our expectations of the monsoon really come off.

**Shri Kelappan:** May I know whether there has been any contraction in the external markets?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** "Contraction" is a term which can only be used in terms of comparison. As between last year and this year, there has been an expansion, not a contraction.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** May I know whether in order to increase the export of cloth, there is a proposal to set up a Council for textile promotion, and if so, when that Council is to be set up?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** It is an idea that has been placed before the manufacturing and trading interests, and I have not yet seen on paper their reactions.

NATIONAL EXTENSION SCHEME

***242. Shri Heda:** (a) Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state how many Development Blocks under the National Extension Scheme were inaugurated on the 2nd October, 1953?

(b) How many villages are covered by these Blocks?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) 192.

(b) 19,200 (Approximately).

**Shri Heda:** May I know the exact relationship between the community projects which were inaugurated last year and these Development Blocks?

**Shri Hathi:** The National Extension Blocks and the Community Projects differ in the sense that for the latter,

there is an intensified programme, whereas the National Extension Blocks are restricted mainly to agriculture. The budget also is less for the National Extension Scheme than for the Community Projects.

**Shri Heda:** May I know whether these two schemes—the Community Projects Scheme and the National Extension Scheme—are under the same authority or whether different authorities are looking after them?

**Shri Hathi:** The same authority.

**Shri Gadilingana Gowd:** May I know the number, the names and places of the Development Blocks inaugurated in the Andhra State?

**Shri Hathi:** 22 blocks have been allotted to the Andhra State.

BORDER INCIDENT

*243. **Shri P. C. Bose:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any report on the talk between the District Officer of Purnea (Bihar) and a District Officer of East Pakistan regarding the death of five Santhal women caused by Pakistan Police on the border of India and East Pakistan on the 8th May 1953;

(b) the facts of the case; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in the matter?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** (a) Yes, a joint enquiry was held by the two District Officers on the 4th and 5th September, 1953.

(b) The facts are as stated in reply to parts (a) and (b) of the Starred Question No. 182 asked by Dr. M. M. Das in this House on the 7th August, 1953.

(c) As no agreed decisions were reached at the joint enquiry referred to in part (a) above, the Government of India have again urged on the Government of Pakistan to take appropriate and prompt action against the culprits. The Government of India take a serious view of this case.

**Shri P. C. Bose:** May I know, Sir, if the Government had any formal talks with the Pakistan Government on a higher level to find out the ways and means to prevent such occurrences on the border?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Evidently, the hon. Member is trying to see to the prevention of these occurrences. We have laid down certain procedure. Everybody agrees that this should be prevented. It is a question of evolving a procedure to prevent or to punish those who are guilty. There is no difficulty about that. But the difficulty in the present case was that some Pakistani policemen misbehaved on the border and interfered with the Santhal women. The case is a gross one, a bad one: but some policemen's behaviour is not a Government matter. Of course the policemen should be punished. There the matter ends. But in this particular case action has been taken on the highest level

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know, Sir, whether the father of the Santhal girl who was taken prisoner by the Pakistani police and put in prison, has been released or not?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** Yes; he has been released.

**Shri T. S. A. Chettiar:** What has happened to those policemen? Was any action taken?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. Next question.

REPAIR AND DEVELOPMENT OF K. C. CHANNEL

*247. **Shri C. R. Chowdary:** Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state what steps have been taken to implement the recommendation of the

Khosla Committee regarding the repair and development of the K.C. Channel?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** The Madras Government prepared two estimates namely (1) for improvements to the Kurnool-Cudapah Canal to carry 6,000 cusecs and (2) for improvements to the Canal to carry 3,000 cusecs. They left it to the Government of Andhra to convey their final views as to which of these schemes could be adopted. The subject is under the consideration of the Andhra Government.

**Shri C. R. Chowdary:** May I know whether the Andhra Government has submitted any further proposals in regard to this project?

**Shri Hathi:** This is being considered by the Andhra Government.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know whether this subject was not considered at the recent Chief Engineers' Conference?

**Shri Hathi:** One of the recommendations of the last Conference of Chief Engineers was to carry on further investigations. The Government of Madras carried on the investigations. In the meantime the Andhra State was formed and they sent their proposals to the Andhra Government.

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know whether the Andhra Government has submitted any list of projects in which this canal also is included?

**Mr. Speaker:** I am afraid it is too early to put such questions on the working of the Andhra Government. Let it work at least for six months.

NANDIKONDA PROJECT

*248. **Shri C. R. Chowdary:** (a) will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state whether the States of Hyderabad and Andhra have completed and made up-to-date the investigation on the Nandikonda project on the river Kistna, as per the decision taken at the Conference of Engineers held on the 16th December, 1952?

(b) Have these States submitted their reports of investigation to the Khosla Committee for making a final report on the Project?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) Detailed investigations on Nandikonda project are nearing completion.

(b) Not yet.

**Shri C. R. Chowdary:** May I know when the investigation work will be completed and the final report expected?

**Shri Hathi:** I think it will be completed within three or four months.

**Shri C. R. Chowdary:** Is it not a fact that the investigations were expected to be completed by October last?

**Shri Hathi:** The Hyderabad Government has completed it: the Andhra Government is yet to do it. A joint report is expected to be submitted by them.

**Shri C. R. Chowdary:** What was the reason for the delay in the submission of the report which was expected to be done by October last?

**Shri Hathi:** The reason for the delay is that during the investigations they took some more time. That was the only reason.

**Shri Muniswamy:** May I know whether it is a fact that Nagarjunikonda, a place of archaeological importance will be submerged if this scheme is put through? May I know the present state of things in that respect?

**Shri Hathi:** That is still a matter under consideration.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** In view of certain statements made by Government representatives to the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology that the Finance Ministry has been approached for further allocation so that the Nandikonda project might proceed and the Nagarjanikonda remains may be saved, has Government drawn up any schemes for this?

**Shri Hathi:** That also will be considered after the investigation report is received.

BETTERMENT LEVY

*251. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has asked the Bihar Government that definite undertaking would have to be given by the Bihar Government in regard to the betterment levy and the rates before the Kosi Project was sanctioned; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government of Bihar?

**The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda):** (a) The levy of betterment contribution as a method of financing large irrigation projects has been accepted as a policy by the Planning Commission and the Government of India. This would apply to the Kosi Project when it is sanctioned.

(b) The principle of imposing such a levy has been accepted by the Bihar Government.

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** May I know what will be the approximate rate of betterment levy per acre?

**Shri Nanda:** That has not yet been considered.

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** May I know the exact position where the Kosi Project stands today?

**Shri Nanda:** That is, of course, not a question directly connected: but I may inform the hon. member that plans have now been finalised by the Planning Commission and by the Ministry of Irrigation and Power and a scheme has been forwarded to the Bihar Government for their consent and their approval.

**Shri S. N. Das:** What is the latest scheme? Is it that a separate place has been chosen for constructing the bund at Hanumannagar?

**Shri Nanda:** Till the Bihar Government has had a look into the scheme I think it would be premature to disclose details.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** Will the betterment levy be collected immediately on the execution of the scheme or after the cultivators get the benefits of the project?

**Shri Nanda:** The practice varies with different states.

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** May I know whether such undertakings were demanded while sanctioning other projects also?

**Shri Nanda:** This is a principle which has been in force for a large number of years.

I.J.M.A. MISSION

*252. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government so far to meet the recommendation of the I.J.M.A. Mission to Australia in order to push our export to that country; and

(b) whether our export of jute goods to Australia during the last six months has declined or improved?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) I would refer to my answers on the 14th August 1953 to supplementaries to question No. 480 by Shri M. M. Das.

(b) A statement showing the export of jute goods to Australia during the period from May to October, 1953 as also for the corresponding period of the last year is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 16.]

There has been an improvement of nearly 50 per cent. in exports during the relevant period of the current year.

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** May I know, Sir, the main reasons for fall in Australian demand for our jute goods?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** As I said, Sir, on the last occasion one of the contributory factors has been the stopping of stockpiling by Australia. The other factor was shortage of labour which made them go for bulk storage rather than storage in bags.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** The hon. Minister said that our exports have improved by 50 per cent. May I know the reasons for improvement of our exports? Is it due to decrease in export duty, or increase in demand in foreign countries?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** These two factors and a third factor in addition, a desire on the part of the Australian Government to buy goods in a cheaper market, so that they can pool their prices of the stock they have purchased at a higher price and sell it at a lower price to consumers.

**Shri L. N. Mishra:** May I know whether any specific effort has been made to stimulate export of jute goods to U.S.A. and Argentina also?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Government have no specific scheme so far as U.S.A. is concerned. The IJMA has a scheme for promotion of exports. So far as Argentina is concerned the market is extremely temperamental; it goes up and down. I do not know if, in the circumstances, it would be wise either for Government or for IJMA to embark on any expenditure to stimulate exports.

SCREENING COMMITTEE

*254. **Shri Bhagwat Jha:** Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Screening Committee set up for grading the Hindi and English news readers has submitted its recommendations to Government;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered the same; and

(c) how long it will take to implement them?

**The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

(c) Action would be taken soon after recommendations have been examined.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha:** May I know, Sir, what are the reasons for the great delay and who are the persons who have been put in A grade?

**Dr. Keskar:** I am afraid, Sir, I won't be able to disclose the information, as it is confidential. I might inform the hon. member that the committee, to which he has made reference is a departmental committee appointed by us in order to help us know the merits of the various people in an impartial way and not a statutory committee at all. The recommendations made by the Committee are not obligatory. They will be considered and action will be taken upon them as we consider suitable. All such recommendations are confidential and I am afraid I will not be able to disclose them.

**Mr. Speaker:** He wants to know the reason for the delay.

**Dr. Keskar:** It has only recently been sent to us and the recommendations will help us in fixing the pay and grades of the persons concerned. Automatically it is not possible to apply them to the various persons who are drawing various grades of pay.

**Shri Bhagwat Jha:** In view of the fact that there is a great disparity between the scales of pay of the English news readers and the Hindi news readers, is it not a fact that some officers in the A.I.R. are suppressing the recommendations of this committee?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order. Has he any other question?

**Shri Bhagwat Jha:** Yes, Sir. May I know, Sir, how many news bulletins Hindi and Englisn are read every day and the number of such news readers in both sections?

**Dr. Keskar:** If a question is tabled I shall be very glad to supply the information.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** When some of the recommendations of this Committee are put into force, may I know whether they will come into force with retrospective effect?

**Dr. Keskar:** The Committee has been asked to furnish us with what they think is the quality of the various news readers. As I said—and I repeat—it is not a statutory or Parliamentary Committee. It is a committee which we have appointed in order to enable us to grade people impartially. And it is not possible for me to say at this state whether we will give them pay as is decided from the date of the decision or from before. I cannot say it at this stage.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION ON LOW COST HOUSING

*255. **Dr. M. M. Das:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated expenditure on the proposed International Exhibition on low cost housing, to be held in January 1954 in New Delhi;

(b) whether the model houses, that will be built, are meant only for private residences or for other purposes also, such as schools, office buildings etc.:

(c) the total number of applications granted for space for building the low cost houses in the exhibition;

(d) the total number of competitors, who have submitted their designs of low cost houses;

(e) the number of foreign concerns and Governments who will take part in the exhibition; and

(f) whether all informations regarding the construction of low cost houses, furnished by the exhibition, will be available to the public, in the form of a publication?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) Rs. 9,00,000/- (nine lakhs.)

(b) The model houses will only be of the residential type.

(c) 36 applicants have so far been allotted space for putting up 70 model houses.

(d) 170 designs have been received from 159 competitors.

(e) Fourteen foreign Governments and four foreign concerns are likely to participate.

(f) Yes, Sir.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know whether the firms and individuals who have sent their plans and designs to this exhibition of model houses are entitled to have a patent right over these plans, and designs?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** I do not know as to whether they will be entitled to a patent right. I am still to hear about patent for a design of a house. If there is any scientific discovery involved then there can be a patent.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** May I know whether the plans and designs will be available to the public to build houses without any payment or royalty to the designers?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** Very much so, Sir.

**Shrimati A. Kale:** May I know whether Government will reconsider their decision and have the exhibition in the third week of December so that all Members of Parliament may see it?

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, order.

**Shri K. K. Basu:** May I know whether these new model houses will have all the materials available in India?

**Sardar Swaran Singh:** I hope so, Sir.

TUNGABHADRA PROJECT

*256. **Shri Nanadas:** Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of the Tungabhadra Project made so far;

(b) the area that has been brought under irrigation during 1953;

(c) what items of the Project work are still incomplete; and

(d) when the whole Project will be completed?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) and (c). A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 17.]

(b) *Hyderabad side*: So far 4,000 acres are under irrigation; it is likely that another 2,000 acres will be added by the end of the year.

*Andhra/Mysore side*: Nil.

(d) *Dam and Appurtenant Works*: 30th June 1954. Erection of spillway gates including grooves and operation bridges—before the flood season of 1955.

*Hyderabad side*:

Canal..............................1956-57

*Andhra/Mysore side*:

Canal........................... June 1954

Power supply......September 1956

**Shri Nanadas:** In view of the fact that almost the major portion of the work is completed, may I know whether the work on the Tungabhadra High Level Canal will be taken up? If so, when?

**Shri Hathi:** Only the construction of the dam is complete. The canal system is yet to be done.

**Shri Nanadas:** Am I to understand that the work on the High Level Canal will not be taken up in the near future?

**Shri Hathi:** That depends after this Project is completed. That may be taken up later on, but not so soon.

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know when the water will be given up to mile 173?

**Shri Hathi:** The main canal up to mile 173 is ready, but the distributaries are not ready.

**Shri Nanadas:** May I know by what time the power development will be completed?

**Shri Hathi:** 1956, Sir.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know the reasons for the water not being available for Andhra and Mysore canals when the Hyderabad canal is irrigating 4,000 acres at present?

**Shri Hathi:** As I said, the canal system is not yet ready, Sir.

SHIP-BUILDING

*258. **Shri Jethalal Joshi:** Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state whether Government have any proposal to reduce the subsidy given to the ship-building yard at Visakhapatnam by reducing the cost of shipbuilding?

**The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy):** The proposal of the Hindustan Shipyard Limited for the development of the shipyard, the implementation of which is expected to bring down the cost of construction of ships, is under the consideration of the Government. Certain other measures have been taken already by the Board of Directors in order to bring down the cost.

**Shri Jethalal Joshi:** May I know if the Government consider it advisable to increase the tonnage of merchant and other shipping as a programme for reducing the incidence of unemployment and, if so, how much tonnage is to be increased this year?

**Mr. Speaker:** I am afraid this is a suggestion for action. If he wants any information he may ask.

DISPLACED PERSONS IN WEST BENGAL

*259. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the fact-finding-body appointed to consider the problems of rehabilitation of displaced persons in West Bengal has been considered by the committee of Ministers:

(b) whether that committee have submitted their recommendations to Government: and

(c) whether any steps have been taken on these recommendations?

**The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) Yes.

(b) The recommendations of the Committee are being finalised.

(c) Does not arise.

**Shri B. K. Das:** What are the reasons for the delay that the whole procedure has taken, in view of the fact that the Fact-finding Committee was to have to report by last February?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** The Fact-finding Committee did not submit its report in February; it submitted it later. Then, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy who is a member of the Ministers' Committee was away in Europe and later on he was busy with certain other things. Therefore there was some delay in holding a meeting of the Ministers.

**Shri B. K. Das:** What is the finding of the Committee with regard to the actual extent of rehabilitation achieved in the province?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** It is a big report which is before the Ministers' Committee. The decisions of the Ministers will be made public.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri:** Is there any proposal of making the report available to Members of Parliament from that State?

**Shri A. P. Jain:** Not the Fact-finding Committee's report but the final decision of the Ministers.

**मिश्र गया हुआ व्यापार प्रतिनिधि मण्डल**

*२६०. **श्री रघुनाथ सिंह :** (क) क्या **वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या श्री मुरारजी वैद्य के नेतृत्व में एक व्यापार प्रतिनिधि मण्डल मिश्र गया था और वहां से लौट आया है ?

(ख) क्या इस प्रतिनिधि मण्डल ने सरकार को कोई रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की है ?

(ग) क्या मिश्र में भारतीय वस्तुओं, विशेषकर फिल्मों तथा चाय के लिए लाभदायक बाजार है ?

(घ) क्या सरकार को मिश्र में चाय, फिल्मों तथा बनारसी वस्त्रों का प्रचार करने के निमित्त कोई कार्यवाही करने का विचार है ?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) I understand that a delegation of this nature went to Egypt.

(b) It was not a Government sponsored delegation and as such there is no question of a report being submitted to Government.

(c) There is a market in Egypt for Indian goods including tea. There is at present no market for Indian films.

(d) A proposal for tea propaganda in Egypt is under consideration.

**श्री रघुनाथ सिंह :** बनारसी सिल्क के सामान के वास्ते इजिप्ट में आप की तरफ से कोई खास इंतजाम हुआ है ?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I am not aware of it. There is no definite arrangement yet, but I understand that this

delegation which went has organised a small emporium there, including a display of Banarsi goods.

**Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** In view of the good market for tea, do Government propose to set up a Tea Marketing Board there?

**Shri Karmarkar:** I am not aware of the idea of putting up a Tea Marketing Board there. But we have in contemplation an arrangement in Egypt—but that is under consideration.

### HINDI IN N.E.F.A.

*261. **Shri Rishang Keishing:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state whether Government propose to introduce only Hindi in Devanagri script for the whole N.E.F.A.?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister (Shri J. N. Hazarika):** In accordance with the policy of Government and the recommendations of the Planning Commission, the medium of instruction for the primary stage of education is sought to be the language of the people concerned. At present the language of the tribal people is used as the medium in primary schools in 72 schools. In 93, the medium in primary schools is Assamese. Steps are being taken to provide primers in some of the tribal languages. The question as to whether the script for these languages should be Devanagri, Roman or Assamese is under consideration. Among some of the tribes, the Roman script has previously been introduced through Christian Missionary schools.

Hindi has been made a compulsory subject in all the high and middle schools in the N.E.F.A. It is not at present a compulsory subject in the lower primary schools. Considerable difficulty is being experienced in securing qualified and suitable teachers for posting in the interior of the hills of the N.E.F.A.

**Shri Rishang Keishing:** May I know whether any book has been written in any tribal language? If the answer is in the affirmative, in what script have these books been written?

**Mr. Speaker:** Text books?

**Shri Rishang Keishing:** Yes.

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** In the course of the answer just read out, it was stated that a number of primers have been prepared in the tribal language.

**Mr. Speaker:** He wants the script.

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I am saying that. The language is tribal in one case and Assamese in the other. As regards the script, many of them use the Roman script which has been used for the last so many years in the Christian Missionary schools. But, the question of script is being examined.

**Shri Rishang Keishing:** Is it not a fact that the young tribal students have to study three languages, Assamese, a tribal language and Hindi in different scripts?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** If I may add to that, a person came to me and said: of course he wanted to study Hindi, he wanted to study his own language, he had to study Assamese and he said he wanted to study English: three scripts and four languages.

**Shri Amjad Ali:** There are several tribes: Abors, Miris, Mishmis, Aka, Dafla and Khamtis, each distinct from the other. Which tribe is given its primer?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I can't give the names of the tribes.

### VIJAYAWADA RADIO STATION

*262. **Shri Viswanatha Reddy:** (a) Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to upgrade the Vijayawada Broadcasting Station by increasing its intensity of transmission?

(b) What is the annual expenditure on this station, giving separate figures for staff, artists, and operational expenditure?

**The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar):** (a) There is no proposal at the present moment.

(b) Annual expenditure on this Station is as follows:

Annual expenditure ...Rs 3,59,000
(Actuals for 1952-53) out of which
Staff ......................Rs. 1,76,000
Artists ..................Rs. 1,30,000
Miscellaneous
expenditure............Rs. 53,233.
which is mostly operational.

**Shri Viswanatha Reddy:** Is it not a fact that apart from the initial capital expenditure, the operational expenditure is the same both for high intensity transmitters as well as for low intensity transmitters?

**Dr. Keskar:** I won't be able to say that. The difference will not be very great.

**Shri Viswanatha Reddy:** May I know whether Government will consider the upgrading of this low intensity transmitter because the efforts of artists are invariably wasted because the reception is very poor in every case?

**Dr. Keskar:** It is our policy to replace all the low power transmitters with higher power transmitters. That is one of the main objects of the Five-Year Plan.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** May I know whether it is not a fact that for a long time listeners from Bezwada station have been asking for upgrading the intensity of the transmitter?

**Dr. Keskar:** There has been a demand from the Telugu listeners both as regards Vijayawada and certain other stations which broadcast Telugu programmes. But, in view of the limited amount of money at our disposal, we have not been able to provide for it during this Five-Year Plan.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** Is it not a fact...

**Mr. Speaker:** We are going to the next question.



LOCAL DEVELOPMENT WORKS

*263. **Shri Viswanatha Reddy:** (a) Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state whether the amount sanctioned for the current year under the scheme for financing local works has been completely utilised?

(b) If not, what is the amount still remaining?

(c) Will fresh applications be considered for the utilisation of this amount?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) to (c). The entire amount of Rs. 250 lakhs allocated to the State Governments has been allotted or earmarked for specific schemes selected by the State Govts. Against the Central reserve of Rs. 50 lakhs, applications will still be considered for grants.

**Shri Viswanatha Reddy:** May I know whether the paucity of applications is not due to the lack of publicity given to these schemes?

**Shri Hathi:** On the contrary, all the 250 lakhs which we have sanctioned and allocated to the State Governments have been required for various schemes.

**Shri Viswanatha Reddy:** I am referring to the schemes for which Rs. 50 lakhs have been allotted and out of which a lot of amount remains.

**Shri Hathi:** That scheme was started only in August last. It is now only 3 or 4 months since that scheme was started. I may say that the response from the organisations is very satisfactoy. A number of schemes have come in.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** May I know the amount allotted to the composite State of Madras and the allocation as between Andhra and Madras?

**Shri Hathi:** For Madras I have the figure here: 40 lakhs.

INDIA UNITED MILLS, BOMBAY

***264. Shri K. C. Sodhia:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state whether the case of India United Mills of Bombay was referred to the Central Advisory Council of Industries for advice as to the action to be taken?

(b) If so, what was the advice tendered by them?

(c) What action do Government propose to take in this connection?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Industries Advisors' Council desired that some further investigation was necessary before final recommendation could be made to Government. Accordingly, a Sub-Committee was constituted to make further investigation into the affairs of this Mill. This committee is expected to submit its report shortly.

**Shri K. C. Sodhia:** What is the actual condition of the mills today? Are they working or not?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** All the six units comprised in this mill are working.

**Shri Joachim Alva:** Some time in 1944 or 1945, the then Industries and Supply Minister, the late Shri Akbar Hydari, accompanied by the then Secretary of the Department, Shri H. M. Patel, went down to Bombay and a declaration almost putting the India United Mills out of bounds in the sense that a Government Director was appointed. I want to know from the Government what steps they have taken since then to enforce their regulations against this group despite Government having their big Textile Directorate in Bombay all these years.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I am rather weak in the matter of the history of textile mills in India. I am therefore unable to answer the question.

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS

***266. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Governments of India and Pakistan have decided to exchange prisoners who were taken into custody during Kashmir operations from October, 1947 to January, 1949; and

(b) if so, the number of prisoners involved on both sides?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** (a) It was decided in April, 1950 to carry out a general exchange of Indian and Pakistani prisoners taken during the military operations in Kashmir from October, 1947 to January 1949. As a result of this, prisoners were exchanged.

At a later stage some other personnel who had crossed the cease-fire line and had been made prisoners on either side were exchanged.

At the recent meetings of the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan, it was decided to exchange any remaining prisoners.

(b) The total number of prisoners held by each side now is:

(i) In India's custody at Jammu.

| | |
|---|---|
| Pakistan Army | ... 8 |
| Azad Kashmir Force | ... 22 |
| Northern Scouts | ... 5 |
| Total | ... 35 |

(ii) In Pakistan custody at Lahore.

| | |
|---|---|
| Indian Army | ... 9 |
| J & K Militia | ... 2 |
| J & K Militia | ... 2 |
| Total | ... 13 |

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know the period during which this exchange of prisoners is likely to be completed and whether there has been any case on either side in which any prisoner has refused repatriation?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** I cannot say with certainty. It is possible, if

may have been done already. It may have been done one of these days. It is not a complicated procedure. I think it has been done. I am not sure.

**Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** May I know whether any prisoner has refused repatriation?

**Shri Jawaharlal Nehru:** In case of refusal, it was agreed that he be released where he is. He can do what he likes.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Question-hour is over.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### COTTAGE INDUSTRIES

*229. **Shri S. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 50 asked on the 4th August, 1953 and state:

(a) whether any action has been taken on the recommendation of the All-India Handicrafts Board for setting up a Central Marketing Organization to facilitate and develop the marketing of the Cottage Industries products both in India and abroad; and

(b) if so, the nature of the action taken?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to conduct a survey of marketing possibilities, with particular reference to simultaneous encouragement of production.

### TEXTILE ENQUIRY COMMITTEE

*234. **Ch. Raghubir Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Textile Enquiry Committee was formed in 1952?

(b) Has the Committee submitted its report?

(c) If so, what are its recommendations?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise

### U.N.O.

*235. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian delegation abstained from voting on the inclusion in the agenda of the U.N. General Assembly, the proposal of the Netherlands to commence preparatory work to revise the U.N. Charter in 1955; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for abstention?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** (a) Yes.

(b) The Indian Delegation abstained because it was felt that no useful purpose would be served by forcing a discussion of Charter revision in regard to which there was yet no unanimity among the Big Powers without which no revision can take place.

### AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

*240. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state the progress made by the automobile industry in respect of manufacture since the new policy declaration of Government on the automobile industry on the basis of the recommendations of the Tariff Commission?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** The Government resolution on the Tariff Commission's report on the Automobile Industry was issued as recently as 31st May 1953. It will be too early now to review the progress made by the industry within this short time.

### Tea (Production)

***244. Shri M. R. Krishna:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the fall in the production of tea between 1952 and 1953 as compared with the previous season's output; and

(b) whether this fall is due to the deliberate cut in production or to any other factor?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) The fall in production in 1952, as compared to 1951, was approximately 6 million lbs. and for the period January to August 1953, the fall in production, as compared to the corresponding period of 1952, was about 27 million lbs.

(b) The fall in production in 1952 may be ascribed to unremunerative prices of tea in Indian and London auctions and consequent closure of a number of tea gardens in North East India.

The fall in production in 1953 is due partly to unfavourable climatic conditions prevailing in certain parts of North East India and partly due to the scheme of quality production undertaken by the tea growers in Northern India and also the continued closure of some gardens in Assam, West Bengal and Tripura States.

### Local [illegible]

***245. Shri M. R. Krishna:** (a) Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state the total amount so far given to the States under the Local Development Works?

(b) What are the works and areas that have received aid from the fund advanced for Local Development Works in Hyderabad?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) Rs. 250 lakhs.

(b) A statement furnishing the information is laid on the Table. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 18.]

### G.A.T.T.

***246. Th. Lakshman Singh Charak:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been complaints of violation of G.A.T.T. provisions, from any country, since its inception;

(b) whether any countries have acceded to the G.A.T.T. in 1952 or 1953; and

(c) what were the decisions arrived at at the meeting of the British Commonwealth countries in London in November, 1952?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) None.

(c) I would invite attention to the Finance Minister's statement on the 17th December, 1952, and his replies to short notice questions Nos. 111, 115, 118 and 122 on the 20th December, 1952.

### Tungabhadra Project

***249. Shri Madhao Reddi:** Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Hyderabad suggested to the Central Government that the development of the Tungabhadra Project area in the Hyderabad State should be included in the present Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, what is the attitude of Government in this regard?

**The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda):** (a) Yes.

(b) The proposal is under consideration.

### G.A.T.T.

***250. Shri Madhao Reddi:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (G.A.T.T.) was

reviewed by a meeting of its signatories held in Geneva in September-October 1953; and

(b) if so, whether any important changes were made so far as Indian imports are concerned?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

EXPORT OF TEA AND COFFEE

*253. **Th. Lakshman Singh Charak:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state what are the countries to which Indian Tea and Coffee are exported?

(b) What are the countries with whom the Government of India have entered into agreements?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 19]

EXPORT OF IRON ORE

*257. **Shri Buchhikotaiah:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some companies are exporting the iron ore to foreign countries through Masulipatam port?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** Yes.

INDO-KASHMIR JULY AGREEMENT

*265. **Shri V. G. Deshpande:** (a) Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state how far the July Agreement with regard to Jammu and Kashmir State has been implemented?

(b) By which date will the remaining portions of the Agreement be implemented?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** (a) and (b). Certain steps were taken by the Government of India as well as by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir State last year in implementation of that Agreement. Most of the provisions, however, have not thus far been implemented, though the Constituent Assembly of the State has accepted the Agreement of July 1952 and the present Prime Minister of the State has stated that that agreement will be implemented soon. It is expected that further steps will be taken at the next meeting of the Constituent Assembly of the State. As the whole question is part of the Constitution of the State that is being drafted, it cannot be dealt with separately. It can only be taken up when that Constitution or part of it is taken up.

INDIAN CONSULATE IN GENEVA

*267. **Shri Bansal:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) when the Indian Consulate in Geneva was opened; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the commercial side of the work of the Embassy at Berne has been transferred to Geneva?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** (a) The Consulate-General started functioning from 15th August, 1953.

(b) Yes, Sir.

PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO DISPLACED PERSONS

*268. **Shri Gidwani:** (a) will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state what steps have been taken by Government to implement the scheme of payment of compensation to claimants of priority categories as announced on the 5th November, 1953 and published in the Indian Press on the 6th November, 1953?

(b) When will the applications be invited from the other claimants occupying Government-built houses and evacuee houses not covered by the above scheme?

(c) What is Government's scheme regarding payment of compensation to the rest of claimants?

**The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain):** (a) Regional Settlement Commissioners have been appointed at Bombay, Delhi and Jullundur to implement the interim compensation scheme and funds placed at their disposal to enable them to make a start.

(b) Such persons will be invited to apply within a few months, the exact time depending on the progress made in the case of priority claims.

(c) After the two priorities referred to in parts (a) and (b) of the question have been dealt with, decision with regard to the rest will be taken in the light of the circumstances then existing.

RUBBER (EXPORT)

115. **Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of rubber exported from 1947 to 1953; and

(b) the names of countries to which exported?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) and (b). A statement giving the information is attached. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 20.]

CASHEWNUT FACTORIES

116. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state the number of cashew factories closed down in the years 1950, 1951, 1952 and upto the 15th October, 1953?

(b) How many workers were thrown out of employment by such closure?

(c) What are the causes of closing down of the cashew factories in 1953?

(d) Will Government lay on the Table of the House a statement showing (i) the names of the factories, (ii) their location, (iii) the names of the owners, (iv) the number of persons employed, and (v) the number of persons thrown out of employment of factories so closed down temporarily or otherwise in 1953?

(e) What was the total amount of unemployment relief paid, if any, by the Management or Government in the case of cashew factories closed down in the Travancore-Cochin State in 1953, upto the 15th of October?

(f) What steps, if any, have the Government of India taken to reopen the factories so closed?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) to (e). Information is being collected and as far as may be available will be laid on the Table of the House.

(f) None Sir.

IMPORT OF TOBACCO IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN STATE

117. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state what is the quantity of Jaffna tobacco which the Travancore-Cochin State is allowed to import every year?

(b) Is it a fact that the bulk of the import is allowed to foreign firms?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) 1,500,000 lbs.

(b) Precise information is not available. The matter is being investigated.

TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, FARIDABAD

118. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** (a) Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 598 answered on the 9th September, 1953 and state whether the period of four months of the management of the Technical Institute, Faridabad, by Sardar Madhu Sudan Singh is over and if so, on what date?

(b) What is the increase or decrease in the production and sale of the Institute during the first four months of the management of Sardar Madhu Sudan Singh?

(c) Has the Manager stopped original production in any section and introduced new items for production?

(d) If so, what are the new items in production in such sections and their turn-over?

(e) What are the items of new work taken up by the Manager in the following sections *viz.* (i) Press Shop (ii) Printing Press, (iii) Structural Shop and (iv) Automobile repair Shop?

**The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain)**: (a) The four months' period expired on 28th October, 1953.

(b) It is not possible to make any correct analysis of increase or decrease in the production and sale during this period as there was a general strike in the Technical Institute lasting from September 9 to October 22.

(c) to (e). In no Section has original production been stopped. Manufacture of Rotary Machines has, however, been undertaken as an additional item in the Press Shop only. So far, 550 machines have been manufactured.

TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, FARIDABAD

**119. Shri V. P Nayar:** (a) Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a copy of the Fidelity bond executed by Sardar Madhu Sudan Singh, Manager of the Technical Institute, Faridabad?

(b) Has he filled in and filed his charge report on taking over charge and if so, on what date?

(c) Has the Accounts Section been honouring his transactions involving money and if so, under what rules?

(d) From whom did the Manager take charge?

**The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain)**: (a) A copy is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 21.]

(b) Yes, he filed his charge report on 29th June, 1953.

(c) Yes, under the rules framed by the Faridabad Development Board.

(d) He took over from the Director, Technical Institute.

IMPORT OF CEREALS

**120. Shri P. Ramaswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state what is the present policy of Government in regard to import of cereals through trade channels from abroad and indicate the position in respect of each cereal?

(b) What quantities have been allowed to be imported from the 1st July, 1953?

(c) What are the quantities of each cereal (with value thereof) which has so far been imported?

(d) What further quantities will be permitted till the end of 1953 and for the year 1954?

(e) What is the procedure adopted in selecting the traders for importing on private account?

(f) What system is being adopted for the sale of such consignments to consumers in India at a reasonable price?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar)**: (a) and (e). Rice: Imports are permitted from Soft Currency areas.

*Maize and Barley*: Applications are considered on merits depending on applicants' ability to import up to the quantity and value applied for.

*Wheat*: Import by private trade is banned except by flour mills who are permitted to import wheat required by them for making wheat flour which they are required to export within 6 months.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| (b) Rice | .. | 33,000 tons | approximately |
| Maize | .. | 35,000 tons | " |
| Barley | .. | 11,450 tons | " |
| *Maize and Barley | | 1,580 tons | " |

*(licences issued for both the cereals together)

(c) Information is not available. The licences have been issued recently.

(d) No information can be given. Issue of further licences would depend on the requests actually received for grant of import licences. No ceilings have been fixed.

(f) Importers are at liberty to sell the rice, maize and barley imported by them at any price so long as they do not contravene any local restrictions. Sale of these imported cereals is, however, not permitted in rationed areas.

### ALL-INDIA SERVICE OF IRRIGATION AND HYDRO-ELECTRIC ENGINEERS

**121. Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has been made towards constituting an All-India Service of Irrigation and Hydro-Electric Engineers which was under the consideration of Government for some time;

(b) if so, what; and

(c) what was the response of the various State Governments which were approached for their opinion and co-operation?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) to (c). Only three Part 'A' State Governments and the majority of Parts 'B' and 'C' State Governments have expressed their willingness to participate in the proposed Service scheme; whereas the majority of the Part 'A' and four Parts 'B' and 'C' State Governments are not in favour of the formation of the Service. Further steps are being considered.

### RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

**122. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some of the guest suites in the Rashtrapati Bhavan have been re-furnished by the State Governments in Indian style?

(b) If so, how many and by which State Governments?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Four rooms have been almost completely furnished as follows:

| State Government | No. of rooms |
|---|---|
| Assam | 1 |
| Bihar | 2 |
| Mysore | 1 |

(2) Three rooms have been partly furnished one each by Madras, U.P. and Punjab Governments.

(3) The State Governments of Hyderabad, Madhya Bharat, Bombay, West Bengal, Saurashtra and Travancore-Cochin have also agreed to furnish a room each.

### COTTON

**123. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of cotton exported from this country during the year 1952-53; and

(b) the total quantity of cotton imported during the said period?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) and (b). A statement is attached.

STATEMENT

| | |
|---|---|
| (a) Exports during 1952-53 season (1st September 1952 to 31st August, 1953) | 310,044 bales of 400 lbs. each. |
| (b) Imports during 1952-53 season (1st September 1952 to 31st August 1953) | 688,714 bales of 400 lbs. each. |

CONSTRUCTION OF GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS IN DELHI

124. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated total value of buildings constructed in Delhi by or through the Ministry from the 15th August, 1947 to the 1st October, 1953; and

(b) the total value of buildings constructed through the medium of Government Contractors?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) and (b). The value of the buildings constructed amounts to about 31 crores of which a little over 30 crores worth have been constructed through the agency of contractors.

RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

125. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state the number of applicants belonging to Class IV and Class III of Central Government who have been waiting for allotment of Government quarters for over three years as on the 1st October, 1953?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):** Allotment of Government quarters to Central Government servants in Delhi and New Delhi, except in the case of Class IV servants, is not made according to the class of their service but according to their emoluments. On 1st October, 1953, there were 19,568 Government servants drawing less than Rs. 500 p.m. other than Class IV servants, waiting for allotment of Government quarters in Delhi and New Delhi for over three years. The total number of Class IV staff without allotment on 1st October, 1953, was 8,309. As allotment to Class IV staff is made not by the Estate office directly but by the offices to which they are attached, out of the quotas allotted to them in bulk, the number of Class IV servants who had been waiting for over three years is not readily available.

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ASSAULT ON C.P.W.D. STAFF

126. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** (a) Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state how many cases of assault on Supervisory Staff of the C.P.W.D. have been brought to the notice of Government from the year 1948 onwards?

(b) What action have Government taken on such complaints?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) Eleven cases of assault by Contractors or their workmen on the Central Public Works Department supervisory staff have been brought to the notice of Government since 1948.

(b) Government have taken such action as was considered appropriate having regard to the attendant circumstances in each case, generally after asking the contractor concerned to show cause as to why he should not be blacklisted or debarred from working as a Government contractor and has taken the form of either blacklisting the contractor or warning them or getting the guilty workmen removed from the work concerned.

COFFEE

127. **Shri Amjad Ali:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state what percentage of world production of coffee is produced in India?

(b) Which are the principal consumer countries of Indian coffee?

(c) Is there any possibility of bringing more acreage of land under coffee cultivation than at present?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) Approximately one per cent.

(b) United Kingdom, France, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Iraq, Bahrein Islands.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

INDIAN COFFEE BOARD

**128. Shri Amjad Ali:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state how far the activities of the Indian Coffee Board have been helpful in stabilising the coffee industry?

(b) What were the various forms of activities which enabled the industry to hold its own even during the last War and after?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) The stability and confidence restored to the industry since the inception of the Board in December 1940 can be seen from the increase in acreage under coffee since then. From an estimated area of 1,81,037 acres in 1940-41, the coffee acreage in India has risen to 2,39,976 acres in 1952-53, that is by 32·5 per cent.

Production of coffee has also substantially increased. From an average annual production of 16,037 tons for the six years ended 1940-41, the coffee crop in India has risen to an average of 20,230 tons for the six years ended 1952-53 *i.e.* by 26 per cent.

The consumption of coffee in the country has also increased from about 10,000 tons in 1940 to about 18,000 tons in 1952.

(b) (i) Regulated marketing of coffee through a Central Pool;

(ii) promoting coffee consumption in India;

(iii) establishment of a Research Department.

TATA IRON AND STEEL COMPANY

**129. Shri K. P. Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state whether the negotiation in respect of the loan to be advanced by the Government of India to the Tata Iron and Steel Company has been completed?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** No, Sir.

STORAGE BATTERIES

**130. Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of units in India, that are manufacturing storage batteries;

(b) the indigenous production of the same;

(c) whether all the raw materials required for their manufacture are available in this country;

(d) if not, what are those that are imported; and

(e) whether any quantity of storage batteries are imported from outside?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) 14 manufacturers are known to us.

(b) Production figures are as follows:—

| | |
|---|---|
| 1952 | 170,655 nos. |
| 1953 (Jan.-August). | 123,444 „ |

(c) No, Sir.

(d) A statement is attached.

(e) Yes, Sir. Heavy duty batteries and certain other types are allowed to be imported on a restricted basis.

STATEMENT

The principal raw materials and components required for the manufacture of storage batteries, and are imported, are—

(1) Pig Lead.

(2) Separaters

(a) Wooden (partly imported).

(b) Microporous rubber, Fibre glass, Plastic, etc.

(3) Special types of battery containers.

(4) Alkali reclaim rubber.

(5) Asbestos fibre.

(6) Coal tar pitch.

(7) Asphalt compound.

(8) Rubber accelerators.

(9) Barium hydrate.

(10) Barrier Cream Rozalex.

(11) Jenolite.

EAST AFRICA

131. **Shri Muniswamy:** (a) Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state whether it has come to the notice of Government that allegations were made against Indian Publishers by the Regional Director of East African Posts and Tele-communications, during the middle of September, 1953, in the following words:—

"India is flooding East Africa with obscene literature."?

(b) If so, is there any basis for this statement?

**The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** (a) In his annual report on the working of the Posts and Telegraphs Department of East Africa, the Regional Director has stated that obscene magazines were coming from India to individuals in East African territories and that these magazines had been confiscated. His reference apparently was to some sex magazines which certain individuals in East Africa had ordered on a subscription basis from publishers in India.

(b) According to information received by Government, such magazines are not being imported into East Africa by any booksellers, Indians or others, but that individuals are privately receiving them through the post from India.

ZAGREB INTERNATIONAL FAIR

132. **Shri Muniswamy:** (a) Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that India participated in the annual Zagreb International Fair held in Zagreb (Yugoslavia) during the month of September, 1953?

(b) What were the articles displayed in the Fair by India?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 22].

CLOTH (IMPORT)

133. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 636 asked on the 19th August, 1953 and state:

(a) the quantity of all kinds of cloth imported into India during the years, 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53;

(b) the quantity and value of umbrella cloth imported into India during the years 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53; and

(c) whether Government propose not to issue any new permits to import cloth into India?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) Statement is attached [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 23.]

(b) Figures of imports of umbrella cloth are not maintained separately.

(c) Licences will be issued according to the policy laid down for the half year ending December 1953.

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES IN COMMUNITY PROJECT AREAS

134. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 852 asked on the 27th August, 1953 and state:

(a) the number of persons engaged in and the value of the products produced in various cottage industries (including hand-spinning of cotton and hand-weaving of cotton cloth from hand-spun yarn) in each Community Project area;

(b) the extent and nature of assistance given to those engaged in each of these industries;

(c) whether paddy-husking and pounding is being carried on in any of the Community Project areas; and

(d) if so, in which areas?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House when available.

G.A.T.T.

135. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state whether India's participation in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade contributed to any increase in the percentage share of India's exports to the other signatory countries in 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53, compared to 1947-48, the year prior to the agreement?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** There certainly has been an increase in the percentage share to which the hon. Member refers, but the extent to which the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade has contributed to it is not easy to assess.

DIPLOMATIC ENCLAVE, DELHI

136. **Shri Heda:** (a) Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state the amount spent so far on the reclamation and development of diplomatic enclave?

(b) When do Government hope to complete this work?

(c) What is the budgetary provision for it?

(d) Has any official designation been given to this enclave?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) Rs. 93,52,450 upto the end of October, 1953.

(b) The work is expected to be completed during 1954-55.

(c) Rs. 9,50,000, during the current financial year.

(d) Yes—Chanakya Puri.

MILK FOODS

137. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity, value and form of milk foods imported into India during 1952-53; and

(b) how they compare with those of the previous year?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar):** (a) and (b). A statement is attached. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 24.]

FIVE YEAR PLAN

138. **Shri Nanadas:** (a) Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state whether the Andhra State Government have suggested any changes in the Five Year Plan so far as that State is concerned?

(b) If so, what are those changes?

(c) What is the total amount provided in the Five Year Plan (giving State's share and Centre's share separately)?

(d) What is the amount so far spent in Andhra State under the Five Year Plan?

**The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda):** (a) to (d). While the Five Year Plan of the Madras State has been broadly divided between Andhra and the residuary Madras State, details of the Andhra Plan are at present under examination between the Planning Commission and the Andhra Government. A senior officer of the Planning Commission is now at Kurnool for these discussions. After the Plan of the Andhra State has been finalised, a statement will be placed on the Table of the House.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCKS IN ANDHRA STATE

139. **Shri Nanadas:** Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Community Development Blocks and the number of the National Extension Service

Blocks sanctioned for the Andhra State;

(b) what are the Community Projects and the National Extension Service Blocks under operation;

(c) the total amount spent on them; and

(d) the progress made so far?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) 1952-53—Two Community Projects.

1953-54—Two Community Development Blocks and 22 National Extension Service Blocks.

(b) Samalkot Project in East Godavari District and Nandyal Project in Kurnool—Cuddappah District. Selection of sites for Community Development and National Extension Service Blocks has not yet been finalised.

(c) Rs. 5,01,726-6-0 upto 30-9-53 on the two Community Projects.

(d) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 25.]

HAND-MADE PAPER

140. **Shri Buchhikotaiah:** Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of hand-made paper purchased by the Government of India in the years 1952 to 1953; and

(b) from which places the paper was purchased?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) 1952—Nil.

1953—3,101 Reams.

(b) Ahmedabad. Bombay. Ogalevadi (N. Satara) and Poona.

GRAND HOTEL, SIMLA

141. **Shri Bheekha Bhai:** Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that different charges of room-rent are made from M.Ps. and Government servants by the Manager of the Grand Hotel, Simla:

(b) if so, what is the difference in rent charges and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is a fact that messing charges are realised at a higher rate by the caterer of the Grand Hotel, Simla, than those charged in the Constitution House?

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):** (a) and (b). There is no difference in the rent leviable from Government servants and Members of Parliament. The rate, however, differs depending upon whether they are on official duty or not.

(c) Yes Sir. The messing charges at Grand Hotel, Simla, are higher than those in the Constitution House.

MEDICATED SOAPS

142. **Dr. Amin:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that the manufacture of medicated soaps was undertaken for the first time in our country in the year 1952; and

(b) if so, the names and location of the firms which have undertaken this manufacture?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) No Sir. It is understood that medicated soaps were being manufactured in India even prior to 1952.

(b) A statement giving the information is attached. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 26.]

PUMPS

143. **Dr. Amin:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the annual requirements of our country with regard to bore-hole, deep-well and such other pumps; and

(b) the total number of such pumps allowed to be imported during the

years 1952 and January to October 1953 showing their value in rupees?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** (a) The annual demand for bore-hole, deep-well turbine pumps cannot be estimated with any degree of accuracy.

(b) The value of imports of centrifugal (including turbine pumps) is as follows:—

| 1952 | 1953 (January–August. |
|---|---|
| Rs. | Rs. |
| 98,41,296 | 48,56,232 |

Information regarding imports of bore-hole and such other types of pumps is not available.

HANDLOOM INDUSTRY

144. **Shri Viswanatha Reddy:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state what suggestions have been received from various States for the improvement of handloom industry with the help of the fund created by the levy of cess on mill cloth?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** Various Schemes for the development of the handloom industry have been received from State Governments. A Statement showing the Schemes in respect of various States sanctioned so far is attached. [*See* Appendix II, annexure No. 27.]

WATER AND POWER SUPPLY FROM BHAKRA DAM PROJECT

145. **Shri Karni Singhji:** (a) Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state the probable date by which water would be supplied for irrigation purposes to the Bikaner Division (Rajasthan) from the Bhakra Dam Project?

(b) How long is it likely to take for the completion of the Bhakra Dam?

(c) By what time is power likely to be made available for distribution in Rajasthan from Bhakra-Nangal Project?

(d) Which districts and towns will be getting power from this Project?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):** (a) By the middle of 1954.

(b) According to the present programme of construction the Bhakra Dam will be completed by October, 1959.

(c) and (d). The entire question of the transmission and distribution systems proposed by the Punjab, Pepsu and Rajasthan States has been referred by the Planning Commission to a Committee who have been asked to advise on a rational programme of capital expenditure in regard to such systems to secure the best economic results. A decision as to which districts and towns will be getting power from this Project and when, will be taken after the Committee submit their report.

THE
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

Dated 25.11.2011





# HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

*Tuesday, 24th November, 1953.*

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*The House met at a Half Past One of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(*See Part I*)

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2-30 P.M.

## LEAVE OF ABSENCE

**Mr. Speaker:** I have to inform the hon. Members that I have received the following letter from Rt. Rev. John Richardson:

"I beg to state that the last ship which called at Car Nicobar was on the 31st October 1953. The next ship is expected in January 1954. It is not possible for me to attend this session of the House through lack of transport. There is no other means of going out from here. I therefore respectfully beg the House to grant me leave of absence for this Session of the House."

Is it the pleasure of the House that permission be granted to Rt. Rev. John. Richardson for remaining absent from all meetings of the House during the present session?

*Leave was granted.*

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee** (Calcutta North-East): May I ask, on a point of order, if a Member of Parliament is not entitled at least to provision of transport to the place where Parliament is having its sessions, because from this letter it appears that Government offers no facilities for the transport of Members to the seat of Parliament?



**Mr. Speaker:** The matter may be raised somewhere else.

**Shri Feroze Gandhi** (Pratapgarh Distt.—West *cum* Rae Bareli Distt.—East): How did this letter come?

**Mr. Speaker:** Let us go to the next item.

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## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

(i) REPORT OF THE TARIFF COMMISSION

(ii) MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY RESOLUTION

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following papers, under sub-section (2) of section 16 of the Tariff Commission Act, 1951:—

(i) Report of the Tariff Commission on the continuance of protection to the Fountain Pen Ink Industry, 1953;

(ii) Ministry of Commerce and Industry Resolution No. 42(i)-T.B./53, dated the 14th November, 1953. [*Placed in Library*. See No. S—167/53.]

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NOTIFICATION UNDER REQUISITIONING AND ACQUISITION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY ACT, 1952.

**The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh):** I beg to lay on the Table under sub-section (2) of Section 17 of the Requisitioning and Acquisition of Immovable Property Act, 1952, a copy of the Ministry of Works, Housing and Supply Notification No. 5997-EII/53, dated the 9th October, 1953.

[*Placed in Library,* See No. S—168/53.]

RESOLUTIONS *RE* EXPORT DUTY ON COFFEE—*Contd.*

**Mr. Speaker:** Now, we will take up the Resolution. Hon. the Minister.

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):** I have finished my speech on the Resolution.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy** (Salem): I wish to move my amendment:

Yesterday, when the hon. Minister was speaking I was hoping for some light as to the way in which...

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** May I make a submission? I am not raising really a point of order. I am asking for the guidance of the Chair.

The amendment seeks to dispose of the tax proceeds in a particular manner. I thought, Sir, any question of disposing of tax proceeds has got to be done by a different method altogether. There must be a Demand, and there must be appropriation. Of course, I can understand that a Resolution of this nature itself is an innovation in Parliamentary procedure, but it is giving a certain imprimatur on what has happened already. But I think the proper time would be when the Budget is taken up for Members to make a representation or move the Government in any other manner to dispose of the moneys in the manner they suggest. Whether an amendment would be a proper thing is a thing on which I would like to have the Chair's guidance.

**Mr. Speaker:** That will depend upon how the proceeds are to be dealt with. Are they part of the general revenues?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Yes, Sir. The whole thing goes into the Consolidated Fund.

**Mr. Speaker:** Then, I should like to call upon the hon. Member just to tell me as to how his amendment is in order.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** I invite your attention to Rule 159 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business:

> "A resolution may be in the form of a declaration of opinion, or recommendation or may be in the form so as to record either approval or disapproval by the House of an act or policy of Government, or convey a message; or commend, urge or request an action; or call attention to a matter or situation for reconsideration by Government or in such other form as the Speaker may consider appropriate."

The hon. Minister perhaps...

**Mr. Speaker:** I would like to explain the point here—what it means, and why I am inclined to agree with the hon. Minister.

The hon. Member has read a Rule about the form of the Resolution. Now, here, I asked the hon. Minister as to whether the amount of duty was to form part of the general revenues and he said "yes". The amendment goes beyond the scope of the Resolution and wants to ear-mark the revenue for a particular purpose. I think this should be done by a different procedure, and not by an Amendment to this Resolution.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** With your kind permission, I would like to submit that perhaps the word "resolves" gives the impression that the amendment goes beyond the scope of the Resolution. In that case, I will move my second amendment of which I have given notice today, which says:

> "...recommends that the proceeds be utilised for the purpose of...".

I am sticking to the letter of Rule 159 when I substitute the word "recommends" for "resolves".

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** May I make a submission? The proper course by which the hon. Member's intention can be brought into being is this: If the Resolution is thrown out and if the export thereafter is allowed by Government, then the money will go into the pool of the Coffee Board, and might be utilised for the purposes mentioned by him. The proper way in which the hon. Member can achieve his object is to throw out the Resolution, so that the Government's ability to collect the money will stop.

I would refer again to Article 113 which lays down the procedure in Parliament in respect of estimates. Sub-clause (3) of it says:

"No demand for a grant shall be made except on the recommendation of the President."

We cannot make a grant or a demand for a grant by making a recommendation and annexing it to a Resolution of this nature.

**Shri T. K. Chaudhuri** (Berhampore): Is it not a demand for grant?

**Mr. Speaker:** I have not been able to follow what the hon. Minister said. To my mind, it appears—of course, I am open to correction—that if the Resolution is thrown out, it will mean that the Notification is disapproved and the act of Government in realising those dues will probably be open to question.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** No, Sir. The emergency powers of the Central Government under the Tariff Act do protect the Government in regard to action taken so far, but it is only in future we cannot collect any more export duty.

**Mr. Speaker:** But that means, if the Resolution is thrown out, there will be a stop.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** We cannot levy any more export duty, and if we allow any export, the money will go into the pool of the Coffee Board.

**Mr. Speaker:** But the reason for which I am inclined to agree with the hon. Minister's objection is not that the word "resolves" or "recommends" are not there. That makes no difference. In substance, the amendment is an attempt to allocate the proceeds to a specific purpose. That is, I believe, obviously beyond the scope of the original Resolution which requires the approval of this House to what Government have done in the matter of having this export duty. It has nothing to do with the application of the funds so received. That is the point.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** I have one more submission. By stating that we resolve it may be that we bind ourselves to the Resolution, but by substituting the word "recommends" I change the entire character of the Resolution, because this House expresses an opinion and recommends that it may be done so. That recommendation may or may not be acceptable. It is not binding upon the Government to accept that, but at the same time, this House has got a right to express an opinion as to how it should be done. That may not be binding. The Government need not accept that view, but still the House will be within its rights, and I submit once again it is strictly within the letter of Rule 159. How the sanction of the President is required under Article 113, I respectfully submit, I fail to understand.

**Mr. Speaker:** I do not think it requires any further argument. I am not able to agree with the view of the hon. Member, Shri S. V. Ramaswamy. I think this amendment which he seeks to move will be out of order, as beyond the scope of the Resolution.

The hon. Member can speak on the Resolution, if he likes.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** I shall speak on the Resolution, Sir.

The coffee industry is a very important industry.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

My interest in this business, is only as a consumer.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** In this Resolution, not the business.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Yes, in this Resolution.

The hon. Minister moving his Resolution said yesterday that there is a great difference between the world prices and the internal prices. At a rough estimate, it is about Rs. 100 per cwt. The hon. Minister told us yesterday that the internal price was somewhere about Rs. 146 per cwt., and I understand the world price to be round about Rs. 240 per cwt. Roughly, therefore, there is a difference of Rs. 100 per cwt. Instead of this difference going entirely to the producer, the State steps in, and wants to mop out this difference, and credit it to the Consolidated Fund. I was expecting the hon. Minister to say how this huge sum that will be collected by the levy of this export duty was going to be utilised.

This amount is specifically collected out of a peculiar situation in a specific industry. The question therefore arises, what Government are going to do with the amount thus collected. There are three parties to this affair, the consumer, the producer and the industry as a whole. How is this amount going to be distributed between these three parties? The main idea behind this export duty seems to be that the price of coffee in the country is rather high, the consumer is not benefited, and therefore this duty is levied. In order to reduce the internal price, the export of this commodity was banned, when there was a persistent demand for the same. The result is that we are now having a stock of about 12,000 tons lying in the warehouses, since April or May last. Preventing export seems to me to be a novel way of reducing the internal price of a commodity. It seems to me contrary to all canons of international trade, and fiscal policy. If the world prices are high, I should have expected the difference between the world price and the internal price to be given to the consumer by way of a rebate.

We know that the total quantity of production of coffee is somewhere about 23,000 tons. We also know that the internal consumption is to the tune of about 18,000 tons. There is therefore a net margin of about 5,000 tons. At an approximate cost of about Rs. 4,500 per ton, the value of these 5,000 tons comes to about Rs. 2½ crores. The reason why this quantity was not allowed to be exported earlier has not been made plain to this House.

I read recently that there was an adverse balance of trade of about Rs. 40 crores. If the export of the 12,000 tons which are now lying in stock, had been allowed earlier, my submission is that the adverse balance of trade would have been lessened to the tune of about Rs. 5 or 6 crores. While we have not allowed this export, we have allowed the stock to accumulate and deteriorate. Coffee is not a commodity which will keep its quality intact, it deteriorates as each day passes. I understand that the stock of 12,000 tons which we are having now is not in a fit condition to be exported. I would request the hon. Minister to explain to this House why the export of these 12,000 tons was not allowed earlier.

The broad facts of this industry are as follows. About 2,30,000 acres are under coffee cultivation, giving employment to nearly 300,000 people. The total production is about 23,000 tons. The coffee estates are about 28,000 in number, and of this, over 21,000 are estates with less than 25 acres extent.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** You would not be able to give all this information in the Coffee Bill.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** I will give you today.

It appears to me therefore that this industry is mainly run by persons having not more than 25 acres extent in their estates. If the idea was to give the consumer benefit by way of a reduction in the internal price, I should have expected the hon. Minister to allow more exports, of course, keeping a buffer stock in hand, so that the internal prices may not rise unduly. Whatever surplus is available could have been allowed to be exported.

The other point that I wish to submit is that there must be a fair deal to the producer as well. The hon. Minister was pleased to say that the cost was fixed at about Rs. 2-4-0 per lb. I do not know how this was arrived at. But I understand from discussions, that this price fixation that has been done is open to doubt and dispute, because the price has got to be determined in relation to the cost of production, of which the major item is labour. I understand that a labourer who was paid about As. 5 or so in 1939, gets about Rs. 1-9-0 in Mysore, Rs. 1-14-0 in Madras, and about Rs. 2-1-0 in Travancore-Cochin State. This seems to have worked a fairly large part in the cost of production. I also find that the wholesale price of coffee is not extraordinarily high, compared with the increase in the wholesale prices of other similar commodities.

In the Government publication on the 'Index of Wholesale Prices', I find that whereas the index in 1939 was 100, in 1953, the index for tea seems to have moved to 606, that of rice to 715, that of coconut oil to 793, that of betelnuts to 1238, of tobacco to 1893, while that of coffee has moved only up to 537.

This does not seem to be abnormally high. Therefore, I submit it is a matter for an impartial body to assess and fix the price of coffee and see that not merely does the consumer pay a fair price but the producer also gets a fair deal.

Now, the third point would be, Sir, that the industry, itself has got to be developed. I understand it is capable of very great development. After all, we are having only about 2,30,000 acres. Within a few years of concentrated effort, I understand the acreage under cultivation can be increased by more than 1½ lakhs. This, I submit, is the proper thing to do because if production increases, the cousumer can certainly hope for a reduction in price.

Now, considering all these things, Sir, I submit it would be proper and just for the hon. Minister to state what exactly he is going to do with this fund so collected so that the industry may thrive, the producer may have an assurance that there will be some steady policy with regard to the development of this industry and also that the consumer will ultimately be benefited by this. It is for this reason that I moved the amendment, and even though this was disallowed, I hope and wish that the hon. Minister will be pleased to apprise this House of what his views are on all these three matters.

**Shri N. M. Lingam** (Coimbatore): The Resolution before the House is, by itself, not controversial, but it brings to a focus the problems connected with the coffee industry. So it is germane, I think, to give a short review of the history of coffee and its present position in the economy of the country.

Sir, the House may be interested to know that as early as 1872 India exported nearly 25,000 tons of coffee abroad. Since then the export has dwindled progressively and during the thirties of this century, the industry had its worst slump. Then as a result of the constitution of the Coffee Board, it has steadily rehabilitated itself from 1940. Sir, it is true the Coffee Board came into being originally as an organisation for the protection of the growers. But the other side of the picture is that whereas during the boom following the war other commodities enjoyed a period

[Shri N. M. Lingam]

of prosperity, coffee did not enjoy any such advantage. As has been printed out already, the coffee industry is one mainly of the small growers. It is now predominently Indian-owned. This Industry is concentrated mainly in South India. Although the production of Indian Coffee is only 1 per cent. of the world output it enjoys a pre-eminent place in the world markets because of its high quality. And there are other reasons why coffee plays an important part in the economy of South India. It employs nearly 2 lakhs of people in the industry. It is true, Sir, that it is also a beverage consumed in every home in South India, and I can appreciate the attempts made by the Ministry to reduce the price of coffee so that the common man may have it without undue strain on his purse. But, Sir, an examination of the budget of a middle class family shows that even after the price is reduced to its rock bottom level, coffee nearly consumes 10 per cent. of the budget, because the beverage cannot be prepared by the liquor out of this bean alone but it requires milk and sugar. So to really bring coffee to the doors of every home in South India, or for that matter in any other place in India, the price of coffee has to be reduced drastically. So in this context I appreciate the efforts of the Ministry to bring down the price of coffee in India. But. Sir, this should not make us forget the problems. the grave handicaps, the industry has to contend with. Figures are quoted showing that the price of coffee has increased nearly four-fold since 1946. But, account has not been taken of the other handicaps that the industry has been suffering from. The yield has not been uniform. This is an industry where the yield is fluctuating. The plant is very delicate. It has to be tended most carefully. The cultural operations require a high degree of experience and skill. It does not depend upon irrigational facilities. The vagaries of rainfall, climatic conditions and soil play a large part in determining the fortunes of the crop. Here, Sir, I shall give some figures to show how unpredictable the fate of the industry has been. Taking the period 1941-42 to 1950-51, the lowest Arabica crop was 6,970 tons per year and the highest 19,300 tons. Figures with regard to Robusta correspondingly are 3,250 tons and 15,350. So the figures of production vary so greatly in spite of the best cultural operations, in spite of the best care taken by the planter, that one does not know what the crop of a year will be; it depends so much on the seasonal conditions. For instance, if soon after the blossom period there is rain, the entire crop is washed off. Then again if the plant is subject to diseases like the 'leaf rust' and the 'stem borer' and if these affect our estates—as they did affect and wipe out entirely the industry in Ceylon—then the crop is a failure. Thirdly, Sir, in South India the industry began to thrive actually in the latter part of the 19th century with the result that the plants have become very old. If the best results are to be achieved, they are to be replaced periodically and the entire coffee plantation renewed. Sir, in this context one can appreciate the hardships of the grower. But it is the business of the House to see that not only the grower is protected but also consumer is benefited. So, Sir. I venture to submit that the best way of effecting this desired consummation is to give an incentive to the industry itself to increase production.

3 P.M.

Sir, in the Five Year Plan we have set apart crores of rupees for agriculture. We are constructing dams; we are subsidising the distribution of fertilisers. In fact, the lion's share of the allocations in the Plan go to the development of agriculture. but this industry does not want any such aid from Government. It only wants to be allowed to look after itself so that it can play its role fully in the economy of the country. So, Sir. the least that the Government should do is to give an incentive to the development of the industry. And, by giv-

ing this incentive the Government would be achieving the objectives set out in the Plan, namely, the provision of employment, the increase of the standard of living of the people and the improvement of our foreign trade.

Sir, now the average production has reached the level of 23,000 tons a year and thus about 3 to 4 thousand tons are exportable. If the production is increased to say, about 30,000 tons, it will be possible to export 10,000 tons, the income from which can go entirely to subsidising the price of the consumer. Sir, this practice of subsidising the consumer's price is not somthing new. It is in vogue extensively in the United States of America; although the produce of the grower is condemned and consigned to the flames later on, the grower is not allowed to suffer on that score. He is given a fair price. I therefore submit that Government should do everything possible to extend the acreage under coffee. From 3 lakhs of acres in the latter part of the 19th century it came down to about 2 lakhs of acres and during the last 10 years it has gone up to about 2,50,000 acres. At this rate, it is possible to double the area under coffee in another ten years; and, with the results of our research to combat pests and diseases and with the great experience of the planters, it is easily foreseeable that the production of coffee will have doubled itself in another decade. Sir, ultimately, if the consumer is to benefit, the production of coffee has to be increased and the cost of production has to be brought down. I would, therefore, most earnestly suggest to the Minister in charge to see that the industry thrives. The industry now has to undergo very real hardships. I speak from personal experience. You cannot point out to a planter during the last 10 years who was made more than a marginal income out of coffee. I also have seen in my constituency coffee estates which were moved down because they were not remunerative and they were replaced by tea later on; and, there are also estates which have been abandoned because of sheer lack of means to maintain them. So, we cannot be guided merely by the rise in prices during the last 6 or 7 years in respect of the various grades of coffee. The difficulties which the industry had to contend with have been very great and if the Coffee Board is a growers' monopoly and has a bias in its own favour in fixing prices, it was not a concession which other industries did not enjoy in the period following the war. If the policy of the Government is to give any incentive to the private sector with a view to increase production and to increase employment, I think it is the duty of this House to see that all facilities are given for coffee to expand itself in the country.

Sir, the time is most opportune for such an expansion. There is world shortage of coffee; the coffee prices today are very high and conditions in India are favourable. We are straining every nerve to absorb more people in employment and to increase the national wealth and if such an opportunity is lost, it may never again return. I have no quarrel with the basic price fixed by the Ministry with regard to coffee just now. I am told the Board fixed it at Rs. 2/7/1 per lb. and at the instance of the Ministry it was reduced to Rs. 2/4. Now, Sir, it has been reduced to Rs. 2/1. I understand that the Board has agreed to this price without prejudice to the results of the enquiry...

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I am afraid, Sir, the figures given by my friend are not quite correct.

**Shri N. M. Lingam:** I speak subject to correction, Sir.

I understand that the Coffee Board has agreed to this price without prejudice to the result of the enquiry into the industry as a whole by the Tariff Board or any other agency that may be set up by Government. Sir, the understanding was that it should reduce the price and that when the Coffee Board has really implemented the understanding by selling coffee at the lowest price suggested by the Ministry, it is not fair to deprive the growers of the income that will accrue

[Shri N. M. Lingam]

from the export of this small tonnage of coffee. I submit, that it is not fair to have it both ways. Either fix a fair price and give the benefit of the export of coffee to the grower or let us take the industry entirely out of this control so that it may shift for itself, now that it has come out of the period of slump. Sir, my emphasis on the state of the industry does not blind me to the hardship of the consumer. As I said at the beginning, even at the reduced rate of Rs. 2/1 per pound, the consumer does not feel any comparative or appreciable relief. If he is really to enjoy coffee and if coffee is to go to the door of every house in South India, the price has to go down still further. The remedy is for the Government to subsidise it and if the industry is also to thrive along with it, there is no other alternative for the Government except to give an incentive to the industry. If the industry is killed, it will have serious repercussions in the economy of the South.

With these observations I commend the resolution to the House.

**Shri Damodara Menon** (Kozhikode): I come from a coffee-producing area. In fact, the bulk of Wynad, which is the largest coffee producing area in Malabar forms part of my constituency. I am, therefore, very much interested in this industry and when this Resolution came up for consideration, I had occasion to look into some of the figures concerning this industry. I must, at the outset, assure the hon. Minister that I am not against the imposition of this duty. What I want the Government to consider in this connection is their attitude towards this industry which must undergo a helpful change. As a matter of fact, this industry, as has been pointed out by some of my friends who spoke previously, underwent a slump sometime ago and it is today recovering and is progressing satisfactorily. I know the people from South India are used very much to this beverage. They drink coffee and that is a matter of daily enjoyment for them. I am also happy to know that people in Nothern India are also now taking to coffee largely due to the propaganda carried on by the Coffee Board. Lately, after the opening of a canteen in the Parliament House...

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Does the hon. Member suggest that it is not on account of the intrinsic quality of coffee but more on account of the propaganda that members are taking to it?

**Shri Damodara Menon:** It is very much due to the intrinsic merit of coffee but that merit unfortunately happened to be not much appreciated in Northern India for want of propaganda. That propaganda is being carried on now, and as I was suggesting, because a canteen has been opened in the Parliament House, Members of Parliament from Nothern India are very much patronising it and that is all for the good. This only shows that we must supply coffee to the consumers at cheap rates. The consumer's interest ought to be protected and I am very happy to know that the hon. Minister, who comes from South India, understands the difficulties of the consumer and is bent upon giving them cheap coffee. In all these things I am one with him, but my fear is that he does not appreciate the difficulty of the producer properly. Of course, in coffee industry, there is lot of vested interests and I have no sympathy for them. If Government come with a measure which will do away with the vested interests in the coffee industry, we shall very happily support it and that will be a measure in the right direction. I find from the figures that especially in Wynad and other areas, there are a number of small cultivators; plantations below five acres number about 21,442 and these estates when they are very small in extent, do not produce as much on an average as large estates. Therefore, whatever little concession that you can give by way of enhanced prices to the producers, will be of great benefit to them.

I have had occasion to point out to the House before that the Central Government are at present controlling the economic life of Malabar to a greater extent than any other part of India. We are producers of coconut and there is a Central Coconut Board which controls its production and also distribution; we produce arecanut and there is a Central Arecanut Board mainly nominated by the Government of India which controls that industry; we produce coffee and that is under the control of the Coffee Board; we produce tea and that is also under the control of the Tea Board; and now, I am sure, very soon the Coir Board will come into existence and probably in the course of another year or so we may expect a Spices Board which will control the production of pepper and such other products that we produce, so that, by and large, every aspect of the economic life or activity of Malabar and of Kerala is now coming under the control of the Central Government. Therefore, we have a large claim on the Central Government and that is why I am making a special appeal to the hon. Minister for Commerce and Industry that the producer's interest also must be taken into account—we are making it on behalf of a large number of people of this area, who depend upon money crop. In my area, Robusta coffee is mainly produced; we don't produce Arabica coffee, which is a high-grade coffee. As you will note, Sir, this export duty is on Robusta coffee and so we have to bear the main burden of this export duty. It is a fact that, as the hon. Minister has pointed out, the price of coffee abroad has gone up and, therefore, it is only right that the Government tries to take away a portion of the profit that may go to the producers and also traders in this industry. I have no quarrel about this, but the utilisation of this amount must be for the benefit not only of the consumer or of the general taxpayer, but it must also be for the producer, because if the producer is not encouraged, probably the industry itself will be destroyed in the long run and what you get now by way of export duty may never be realised unless we show a great deal of consideration for the producer. It has been our painful experience—for the people of Malabar—that whenever there is a rise in price of our commodities abroad, the Government steps in to take away whatever profit the producer may get or at least a portion of it, or they don't step in at the right time so that the merchant or the industry gains at the expense of the producer. Recently we had the experience of rubber. At a time when rubber was fetching Rs. 450 per 100 lbs. in the foreign market, the local price fixed by the Government was only Rs. 98-8-0 per 100 lbs. and there was a lot of agitation in Parliament, as you will remember, and later on it was increased to Rs. 138. Now for a long time when we were agitating, the Government did not move in this matter, with the result that at the boom period our producer fails to get his due share. We have to encourage the producer and we should see that more and more acreage is brought under cultivation. If that is the idea of the Government and also if it is to the advantage of Indian economy as a whole, whenever such opportunities come, the Government must really help the local producer to get the advantage of the world market. At present, as I have suggested, the world market price of coffee has gone up and the Government have stepped in to take away a portion of it. We have, therefore, a right to demand of the Government that the producer gets his share. The hon. Minister has now fixed the local price of coffee at Rs. 2-4-0 per point, I am told. It appears that a cost accountant was taken and his recommendation was only Rs. 2-1-0, but the Minister has fixed it at Rs. 2-4-0. The information given to me by the coffee producers is, according to their calculation, that one point would cost Rs. 2-7-0 and a little more. There is a difference between the calculation of the Government cost accountant and the calculation of the Coffee Board. When such variations occur, would it not be fair, Sir, to refer the whole matter to an impartial body to go into the whole ques-

[Shri Damodara Menon]

tion of the production of coffee and to fix a fair price. I would, therefore, appeal to the hon. Minister to see that this matter of fixing of the price of coffee be referred to the Tariff Board, if possible. I don't know if Government can have any valid objection to it. That is one of the suggestions I would make to the hon. Minister in this connection.

I endorse the views expressed by the previous speakers that the coffee producer should have his due share of whatever profit that we make as a result of the enhancement of world prices and in that direction also, I hope the Ministry will turn its attention. I do not want to take more time of the House.

**Shri A. V. Thomas** (Srivaikuntam): I am very happy to see the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry in a happy mood especially so today. The amendment to the resolution has been very nicely or cleverly knocked off. We, as coffee producers, have really no quarrel at the price fixation. We are anxious that the consumer should get his coffee at a reasonable price. There have been complaints that those who drink coffee have to pay very heavy prices for same. That is true. In fact, as growers, we are thankful to the consumers, because during the few years when the world markets were low, they did in a way help the grower by paying a higher price and keeping things going. When the world prices were lower, the prices in India were higher, but in the past few years things have changed. The world markets are higher and the price here in India is lower. But I still feel that the prices to the consumer are not yet lower. I am glad the Minister has been trying to reduce the prices for the consumer. I am quite in agreement with what he has been trying to do in reducing the price for the consumer. But, Sir, at the same time, what we ask for is a reasonable price for the producer, so that he may keep his estates in good condition, produce more by spending more money in fertilisers, and run his estates on up to date lines of cultivation and also to enable the grower to open up more areas for cultivation. It is a well-known fact that large areas in the southwest of India are ideally suitable for coffee. In fact, it is estimated that about a lakh of acres or slightly more than that, is available for coffee cultivation. If reasonable prices are given which allow a fair return of profits to the grower, it will be possible to open up all these areas and bring them into cultivation, and thereby give employment to a large number of people and also increase the country's wealth, as the quantity produced, both by opening new areas and also by improving the cultivation on the existing estates, will be very much heavier and would ensure a ready export market and, bring in a large amount of money. My only request and appeal to the Minister is to consider the case of the grower also in as sympathetic a manner as he is considering the case of the consumer. I have heard it said that on account of the high price of coffee, those who were drinking four cups of coffee a day only drink one cup a day nowadays. I do not know how far it is true, but in the south, quite a lot of coffee is being drunk, but then, coffee-drinking habit is also spreading to the north, mainly by propaganda work done by the coffee-houses. There is a coffee-house even here near the lobby for the Parliamentarians. So, the habit is spreading in Northern India also. So, a large proportion of the coffee we produce could be consumed in course of time in the country itself. Still, it would leave a certain quantity to be exported which would bring foreign exchange.

One more request to the Minister, is, that more attention should be given to the cultivation side of this product. Although the Coffee Board is constituted by the Government, and the Minister himself is taking a deep personal interest in the marketing of coffee, fixation of prices, etc., I do feel that sufficient attention is not

given to the cultivation side of coffee, that is, the bringing in of more areas into cultivation and also encouraging the smaller owners to cultivate their estate in a proper manner so as to increase the crop to a considerable extent. For instance, the present crop is about 20 to 23 thousand tons. but by proper methods of cultivation on the existing areas, this crop of 20 thousand tons could be easily increased in the course of the next few years to 30 or even 40 thousand. 40 thousand may be a very high figure, but I am quite sure it could be increased by at least 50 per cent.—from 20 to 30. Then, if new areas also are brought into cultivation, the crop will be much more. My request, Sir, to the Minister is not to peg down the prices to the grower to the very lowest level. There should be a reasonable margin. Moreover, coffee crop is subject to the vagaries of climate. In a certain year, when there is a proper rainfall, they get a reasonable quantity of crop, but there are certain seasons when the rainfall fails or is untimely when the crop goes down. The hon. Members who spoke before me covered most of the points regarding acreage, etc., to which I do not want to refer again. But one point I would say, Sir. It is that there are 21,442 persons who are holders of five acres and below. These are all peasant class people who, in addition to the five acres, may have a little bit of other land for paddy cultivation, etc. They entirely depend on the income from their small holdings for their livelihood, and they have not been able to cultivate their estates in the proper manner. Their yields are low. So, if they are to live and get a reasonable return, the prices should be on a reasonable level.

**Shri Keshavaiengar** (Bangalore North): Now that the amendment has been rejected on a technical ground that the funds will go to the general funds, I do not propose to make any long speech on this matter. I shall reserve the same for a prospective Bill that is promised to be put forward before the House. Whatever it is, Sir, I would like to suggest that the coffee industry is a very important industry so far as Southern India is concerned. Just as the north is a granary of India so far as rice and paddy are concerned, every grain of coffee that is grown in India is grown in the south, in the slopy hills and plantations in the south. This is one of the industries which is likely to employ lakhs of labourers and luckily for us, it is in this industry that no machinery can be employed on account of the very nature of the processes involved in this industry. Large numbers of labourers have got to be engaged for the purpose of picking the coffee seeds, which work spreads over several weeks. Naturally lakhs of labourers are employed in this industry and there is still a very large amount of scope to increase the extent of the area under coffee and at the same time increase the production of this product.

One other factor which I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister is that we talk so much of encouraging the cottage industries and the private sector and things of that kind. This is one of those industries which certainly gives us vast scope in that direction. From the figures that are available now, it is found that out of about 28,000 estates under coffee, nearly 24,000 estates are below the extent of 10 acres each. That shows what a large number of small estate-owners are there in our country. Even considering that aspect of the matter, it is very necessary, Sir, that we should devote every attention to the encouragement of the coffee planters, particularly, small holders and owners of estates.

So far as the consumer's point of view is concerned, the class that is very seriously affected is the middle class, particularly of Southern India. Almost every member of a middle class family is addicted to coffee drinking. As the previous speaker was pleased to observe on behalf of

[Shri Keshavaiengar]

the planters the Indian consumers came to their aid when the coffee prices in the whole world were much lower than the Indian prices; in those days we were paying a higher price. That clearly shows as to how once we get into the habit of drinking coffee we do not give it up whatever may be the cost. From that point of view also there is every scope for increasing the consumption of coffee in our country. Considering all aspects of the matter, I would appeal to the hon. Minister not to bother himself about technicalities of the issue before us, but bring forward even an Appropriations Bill and render help and encouragement not only for the small coffee planters and owners of small estates, but also the unfortunate middle class consumers who have to pay a high price.

That is why, Sir, some of us made bold to propose an amendment to this Resolution just to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister that just as he wants to intervene in the excess profit that is likely to be made by the coffee planters, he has also to take care of the interest of the consumers and provide, even if necessary, a subsidy, and try his level best to reduce the coffee prices.

I do not wish to take the time of the House unduly. I would only request the hon. Minister to bring forward at the earliest opportunity a measure of appropriation in respect of the relief which we want to afford to the consumer as well as to the coffee planter. It is a known fact, Sir, that once moneys are realised by various levies and taxes, they go into the exchequer. It is very hard to get it out of it. Let there not be one-way traffic. I would very much appeal to the hon. Minister once again to bear these two facts in mind and try to help the consumer by bringing down the prices and at the same time afford every facility to the small coffee planters.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy** (Mysore): When we look at the figures of production of coffee in India and compare them with world production, we find that in spite of great increase in production in our country, we are still producing only 1 per cent of the coffee produced in the world. So, there is very large scope for the development of this industry.

Another factor which we must bear in mind is that the world price of coffee today is much higher than the domestic price. Taking these two factors into consideration, we can say that there is still vast scope for the expansion of this industry. It can also be safely presumed that further production of coffee will not in any way bring down the prices, or discourage in any manner the growth of this industry in our country.

In this connection I would like to make a few observations about the policy pursued by Government. Inspite of the fact that there is vast scope for the expansion of this industry, it is not possible to make any headway on account of the wavering policy pursued by the Government. It is a policy which helps neither the producer, nor the seller, nor the consumer.

Sir, recently I came to know of a very interesting story connected with this industry. There was a demand, a long standing demand from certain coffee interests that the cost of production of coffee should be enquired into and a fair price fixed. It was represented that the enquiry should be entrusted to the Tariff Commission. But the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry did not favour the idea on the ostensible ground that an enquiry by the Tariff Commission would take a long time. So a cost accountant was deputed to visit the various plantations in South India to collect statistics and recommend a fair price, on the basis of the cost of production. The cost accountant visited the various plantations. He did not write his report in the Office of the Coffee Board, but at Conoor or Madras. The report, I was told, was

not based either on figures of Government, or the figures supplied by the Coffee Board. He proceeded on some imaginary data and calculated the cost of production as Rs. 2|1|- per unit. This fixation of the cost of production was not approved either by the Coffee Board or the planters. They placed the cost of production per unit at Rs. 2|7 or Rs. 2|8. I don't mean to say that the point of view of the planters should have been accepted. I would only be interested to know as to how he arrived at the cost of production.

Then again, I was told that it took him five months to enquire into the matter. Previously when the Minister was approached with a request to refer the matter to the Tariff Commission, he did not agree to it on the ground that it would take about six months, as in the case of the rubber industry. But the cost accountant appointed by Government took nearly five months. If the Government had only referred the matter to the Tariff Commission instead of referring it to a cost accountant, they would by now have received the report of the Commission. And the picture would have been fairly clear to us. Now there is disappointment on the part of the productive circles, and the consumers also are not benefited. So I take this opportunity of telling the hon. Minister that even now it is not too late and he can refer the matter of cost, or the whole matter of the coffee industry, to the Tariff Commission. It will not take more than six months for the Tariff Commission to produce the report. The Tariff Commission, as you are aware, is a neutral body and nobody —either the consumers or the producers or any interests involved in the coffee industry—will feel upset about the Tariff Commission report and it will be accepted by all concerned. All the dispute, the anger on the one side or the complaints on the other, will come to a stop. So in the existing circumstances the only way to solve the problems of the industry is to refer the matter to the Tariff Commission and take its opinion in the matter.

The next point is about foreign interests which are operating in this industry. I was told that nearly 12½ per cent of foreign interests are involved. I feel that these foreign interests should not be allowed to remain in the country for long. As far as possible we should follow a policy of Indianising these plantations. So far no serious attempt has been made by the Government to Indianise the coffee estates. So I urge upon the hon. Minister to think about this matter seriously and take measures which will bring all these foreign estates under the ownership and control of Indian interests.

The next point is regarding the expansion of coffee production. I have briefly referred in my preliminary remarks to the fact that there is much scope for development. Now we are producing 23,000 tons of coffee.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member is stating only what all others have stated.

**Shri S. S. More** (Sholapur): For the purpose of emphasis.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** What is the emphasis? Without any emphasis people are drinking coffee.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** I think I am not repeating, Sir.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** This 23,000 tons has been said already.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** I have my own inferences on this.

I think I am not barred from referring to it.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** No, no. He is barred from repeating what all has been said.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** I am not repeating.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** All right, I leave it to him.

**Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** My point is that there is scope for production of coffee up to 40,000 tons within

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seven or six years. And for this it is not necessary to explore new lands which are lying vacant, but if we bring all the lands which are under the ownership of planters into cultivation it is possible to increase the production of coffee to 40,000 tons. Sir, we know when coffee is in high demand in the world market it is necessary that Government should have a planning for the development of coffee. Till today we have no plan or target fixed —that is my complaint—though it is absolutely necessary from the point of view of developing this industry. So I emphasise that a plan may be drawn for a particular period of time so that we may reach a particular target of production.

Lastly, I say that the treatment meted out by the hon. Minister has not given any encouragement to any section and I request him that he should be very fair. In this connection when we are discussing the question of taxation of export of coffee I say that the revenue realised out of this export duty should not be allowed to go to the general coffers. It should be utilised for the benefit of either the consumers or the producers. And subsidy should be given to the consumers by lessening the price of coffee. That is the only purpose for which these proceeds should be utilised. It is not advisable that the proceeds realised by the export duty should go to the general revenue.

With these few remarks I conclude.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Shri V. B. Gandhi. Is he also a coffee grower?

**श्री सिंहासन सिंह** (जिला गोरखपुर दक्षिण): मैं चाहता हूं कि यह बहस बन्द की जाय। कल आनरेबिल मिनिस्टर ने यह कहा था कि काफी का बिल लाने वाले हैं। उस पर भी बहस होगी और यह एक मामूली रिजोल्यूशन है काफी पर एक्सपोर्ट ड्यूटी के बारे में। तो इस बहस को अब बन्द किया जाय और जो आयन्दा बिल आयगा उस समय बहस हो जायगी।

**Shri V. B. Gandhi** (Bombay City—North): In this field of coffee trade I must tread with caution. You just pertinently asked, Sir, if I was a coffee drinker. I rise to say a few words because I am a non-coffee drinker. I thought after we have heard the speeches of so many Members who have been deeply interested in the coffee trade, perhaps a lay man, an outsider, a non-coffee drinker can supply some new perspective to this problem.

Now, Sir, many of us in this House have been confirmed believers that our country must be made export-minded. Every opportunity to expand our exports should be an occasion for rejoicing. I should think that here is an occasion for tendering congratulations to the hon. Minister for Commerce and Industry for being so vigilant in the interests of the export trade. We know he has always been watchful for any opportunities to do something for the export trade.

Now, Sir, the central point in a majority of the speeches has been clearly summarised in the amendment moved by six....

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Sought to be moved.

**Shri V. B. Gandhi:** Yes; sought to be moved; I beg your pardon......... amendment sought to be moved by six of our important Members, important in the coffee field. What exactly did they want through this amendment? First, they desired that something should be done for the consumer of coffee. In fact, as they described it in the amendment, they would subsidise the price in favour of the consumer. What exactly is the situation? To our way of thinking, it seems coffee is one of the products which has, what we generally call, an inelastic demand,

that is to say, a demand that does not respond to any changes in the price. In other words, we do not believe that if the price of coffee today is reduced to half of what it is, a coffee drinker who probably takes 5 cups of coffee a day is going to start taking 10 cups of coffee because the price has been reduced. Coffee undeniably, belongs to that category of products which have an inelastic demand. However, my hon. friend Shri A. V. Thomas told us that because of the high price of coffee to the consumer, he has heard that some people have reduced their coffee drinking from four cups to one. I was just about to treat this information with the respect that it deserves since it comes from Shri A. V. Thomas, but, immediately in a few minutes, Shri Keshavaiengar, another of the important men from the coffee field said that nobody stops drinking coffee or the quantity of coffee that he likes because of the price, and that a man who likes coffee will pay any price and have his coffee.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** No.

**Shri V. B. Gandhi:** This is what Shri Keshavaiengar said. I am saying that the two Members have cancelled each other.

**Shri A. V. Thomas:** A man will continue to drink coffee provided he has got the money.

**Shri V. B. Gandhi:** What exactly can be done for the consumer? I understand that the present price of Rs. 146, which has been fixed by the Government is a price at a low level, a level which has not been reached before. In other words, the price today is as low as it has not been for several years.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** No; for Robusta, it is the highest on record.

**Shri V. B. Gandhi:** Any way, so far as the relief that can be given to the consumer is concerned, I think the action lies with the Government. I do not believe that any of the speakers very seriously objected to the idea of export of coffee. Their chief point was that the receipts or revenues received from the export duty should be utilised for relief or some kind of benefit that should be given to the consumer as well as the producer. If we accept the theory that coffee has an inelastic demand, I do not think much can be done by changing the price. So far as the producer is concerned, I am all for doing something for the producer. From the description that we have heard in this House today about the lot of the producer, he seems to be one who deserves our sympathy and I would join in any plea for Government to do something in that direction. But, the way or means for doing something for the producer is certainly not by asking Government to utilise the revenues received from this export duty. There is, I understand, a cess of one rupee being levied already. Now, these Members who know so much about the lot of the producer and the condition of the industry should press for an increase in this coffee cess and press for a proper utilisation of the revenues from the cess in the interest of the producer.

Finally, one word, Sir. This amendment has been declared out of order on a technical ground. But, even if it has not been declared so on that ground, the very fact that the Resolution moved by the hon. Minister talks about the levy of an export duty, would have precluded the hon. Minister from utilising the revenues from this duty for any purpose other than for the Consolidated Fund of India, for the simple reason that a duty is a tax and a tax is levied without any reference to any specific benefit to the tax payer. Therefore, in the case of an export duty, which is a tax, it will not be right to ask the Government or for the Government to do anything such as allocating the revenues for the benefit of any specific class or community of tax-payers.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Minister.

**Shri Kelappan** (Ponnani): I want to ask a question, Sir. I shall just say a few words.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Only questions.

**Shri Kelappan:** I understand that the hon. Minister has permitted the export of 2000 tons of Robusta coffee. I know that Arabica is a better quality and probably has a better foreign market also. If we look to the production, we find that there are 168,000 acres under 'Arabica' and only 67,000 acres under 'Robusta'. I should like to know why 'Robusta' alone has been set apart for export. Another thing I wish to say is this. I find that the production has gone up to 22,000 tons and the home consumption is only 18,000 tons. As export was not permitted for some time, there is an accumulated stock of 12,600 tons in the country. This year's crop is expected to be more than what it was last year.

4 P.M.

So, at least 10,000 tons would be available for export. I do not know why now export has been restricted. At least 5,000 tons could be allowed to be exported without any risk of the internal prices going up.

One thing more to which I wish to draw the attention of the Minister is our chronic ailment of unemployment, the ever-growing and alarming unemployment. There is scope for the development of this industry. In Wynad alone vast areas await development. There are similar areas in other parts also, and I understand that there is a steady and ever-growing market for coffee. So, here is a field which would give work for at least a lakh and a half labourers. And if the producers are not left any margin and there is no incentive for further production, this industry will really deteriorate. Therefore, in the interests of the poor people who have not got employment now, the hon. Minister will consider the question of utilising the proceeds of this duty for further expansion of the industry.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** I am very grateful to my hon. friend Mr. A. V. Thomas, who must be acknowledged as the only Member here who knows about coffee, for his very short and helpful speech. I am sorry I am constrained to make the remark that the speeches from the other Member did not carry either correct information or any advice to Government which is acceptable, for the reason they were all based on hearsay. My hon. friend Mr. Gurupadaswamy said: "I am told" and "I am told" and "I am told". I was reminded of the fact of the three monkeys: which were intended to represent the three injunctions "Hear not, see not, speak not", for, oftentimes, that would be a very good advice to some of us.

And then, my hon. friend Mr. V. B. Gandhi, the economist, was floundering. He said he did not know whether coffee is a material with an elastic or an inelastic demand. As a material it is inelastic. So far as its demand is concerned, it is elastic because we can do without coffee.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** As a material it is volatile!

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** And unfortunately his fixation of mind that every article must have an elastic or an inelastic demand and the fact that two hon. Members gave contrary versions of the elasticity of the demand of coffee put him in a very difficult predicament, for the economist could not reconcile an obviously unreconcilable fact. Well, I am afraid I am far too much a student of economics to teach a professor about there being certain substances which, though they are food products, are consumable products which will, nevertheless, have an elastic demand. It is not like the cereals. So, the demand is elastic. And it is also a fact that people con-

sume more than one cup of coffee, and they consume it because they have the money in their pocket and the inclination and sometimes the time.

Plantation "A" is supposed to be a reasonably poor quality of coffee. Its price in 1940 was somewhere about Rs. 38 per cwt. Today, including Government tax and the Coffee Board's collection, even the upset price is somewhere about Rs. 212. The market price is Rs. 250|- per cwt. So, obviously the economic factors must have a play. Elasticity is really a matter which responds to circumstances, and in this case I think the demand is extremely elastic because from Rs. 38 it has risen to Rs. 250. There are many people who cannot afford to pay this price. And that is the position today.

Nevertheless, coffee is a good thing. My hon. friend Mr. A. V. Thomas said: The Minister is in good humour. I may tell him that thanks to the hours of Parliament fixed at 1.30, when a man has got to go without his lunch, today being a Question Hour and also because of my having Bills and resolutions to look after I came fifteen minutes earlier, and had a cup of coffee. If it puts a Minister in good humour, it ought to put Members of Parliament in better humour if they follow in his footsteps.

I am not being facetious, but the real fact is that there is nothing much I can say now at this stage. I can disprove quite a lot of information that was gratuitously offered to me, from the facts that I have in my possession, but I do believe, Sir, that this House will have an opportunity ere long to discuss an Amending Bill so far as coffee control is concerned. My hon. friend Mr. Thomas has very wisely refrained from making any remarks now. Naturally he will start the battery on me, and I will probably shiver, but at the moment I am smiling because the battery is not there.

The fact in regard to this export duty is this. Rs. 62|8 per cwt. is the export duty. Normally we get Rs. 21|- by way of excise duty. That is not levied on anything that goes into export. So, the net addition to the Exchequer is Rs. 41|8 per cwt. exported. Simultaneously with this Rs. 41|8, because the average realisation by means of these auctions has been about Rs. 168|8, the Board gets another Rs. 43|-. So, this increased price that we are getting from this export is being equally shared between the Board and the Exchequer. And I do maintain that this Rs. 43|- per cwt. of Robusta coffee which is exported is good enough, large enough, ample enough for them, if they want to benefit the consumer by cushioning the price, and it is what they are doing in one sense. Because, today, or rather from the 1st December when the auctions will be held—and I hope the auctions will have a good response—the price for Plantation "A" which is a superior brand will be about Rs. 2/- per point, *i.e.*, roughly about Rs. 195|- or so and Robusta will come down to somewhere about two-thirds, a little less than two-thirds of that amount. But we are however ensuring to the grower Rs. 2|4 which is the cost they have fixed for the current year's production. So, the lag between Rs. 2 and Rs. 2|4 has got to be found from somewhere. It might be that we will get some more money by means of auctions, but there will also be in the pool this Rs. 43|- per cwt. which we realise by way of exports on Rubusta coffee. So, it is intended that the price of the consumer should be reduced some way. That is, the upset price in the auctions will be Rs. 2|0 instead of Rs. 2|4. An effort is being made in the direction. The Board has agreed to it, of course subject to certain conditions which are not acceptable to us. Nevertheless, we are attempting to bring down the price of the consumer, and with the larger supply of coffee available, it is expected that the consumer will get Plantation "A" somewhere about Rs. 2/2 or Rs. 2/4 per lb., instead of

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about Rs. 3|4 or Rs. 3|5 which he gave sometimes last year.

Hon. Members have said something about the Tariff Commission. Of course, for one thing the Tariff Commission has been loaded with so much work, and the Tariff Commission is usually used where Government feel that if they give a higher price or protection to a particular industry, they may be accused of reacting to pressure groups, using their individual discretion so as to saddle the consumer with a higher price. In order to cushion themselves from such charges, the Tariff Commission is used, so that the Tariff Commission can adjudicate between the consumer and the producer, because a higher price is given. In this particular instance, that kind of conflict is not there, and I am not afraid of any charge being made so far as I am concerned that I am giving to the coffee producer anything more than what he deserves, and I do maintain that in this case the reference to the Tariff Commission is not necessary. The Tariff Commission is not necessary for purposes of adjudicating between the consumer and the producer, because I am prepared to adjudicate and I am prepared to take all the responsibility. If hon. Members think I have done something wrong. I am quite prepared to face the charge and take the punishment if the guilt is proved.

Nevertheless, we did have an enquiry into the cost structure. All along, the prices have been determined by the Board, a Committee of the Board, which is a producers' Board by and large, and prices have been going up from Rs. 38 to Rs. 250 per cwt. Don't think of Robusta which is cheap coffee. It almost grows wild. Nobody does anything much for growing Robusta. If anybody says that he does anything for growing Robusta, please don't believe him. It grows wild more or less.

So far as 'Plantation A' is concerned, the price was in the region of about Rs. 38, in 1940, when the Board came into existence. The prices have gone up in 1946 to Rs. 90, in 1947 to Rs. 90, in 1948 to Rs. 90, and from 1949 onwards, they went up to Rs. 120, Rs. 135, and Rs. 180. Now the price is Rs. 2-4-0 per point, and they want to raise the prices to something further than that *i.e.* Rs. 2-7-0 per point. An increase from Rs. 38 to Rs. 180 is bad enough, in all conscience, but if it goes somewhere beyond that, I am afraid that it is time for us to cry halt.

There is also the other side of the picture. From 1943 onwards, we were exporting outside, and we found that the export price realisable was much less, because during the last decade, it happened that Brazil was producing so much of coffee and the Americans had not become coffee-minded, and therefore quite a few thousands tons of it had to be dumped into the Caribbean Sea; and in order to maintain our export, the consumer was asked to subsidise exports. He did so to the extent of about Rs. 15 to Rs. 17 per cwt. from 1944 till 1948. We charged the consumer at a higher price, so as to sell in the export market at a lower price. It cannot therefore be said that Government have been oblivious to the interests of the coffee producer, because we have made the consumer pay, but at this time, we cannot make the consumer pay more than what he is paying now. At the same time, it is said that coffee, at its present prices, is unproductive, and unremunerative. My hon. friends who know the position, from Malabar and from Wynad have said so, but may I tell them that though it is certainly unremunerative for the sub-marginal estates, it is remunerative for the marginal estates? It is ultra-remunerative for the better type of estates which make an enormous amount of money. I shall at a later occasion, give facts and figures to

this House to show that a company which had a capital of £60,000 or about Rs. 8 lakhs in 1943, has a capital today, of roughly—it has been split up into two companies now—Rs. 100 lakhs, and money has been pumped in to the tune of not less than Rs. 60 lakhs, which is nearly 750 per cent. of the original capital. Obviously, somebody has made this money at the expense of the poor consumer, whose demand is extremely elastic, may I tell my hon. friend Shri V. B. Gandhi?

All this will again be discussed when we bring in the Coffee Bill. It is Government's intention that the coffee producer must be given a fair deal. It is also Government's intention that the small producer must be protected. Otherwise, tomorrow I can dissolve the Coffee Board, and the prices will find their level, and I can always regulate the exports, so that the prices can be depressed, and the consumer benefited, but then the small man who produces about 1¼ cwt. per acre will go to the wall whereas a man who produces 8 to 10 cwts. will make a profit. It is not our intention to allow the small man to go. We shall devise, with the help of people like Shri A. V. Thomas, who know the industry, some method by which we shall put an additional burden on the man who makes more, subject to the provisions of Article 14 of the Constitution, so as to give the small man some kind of a rehabilitation allowance. It shall be our attempt to devise that, when the Coffee Bill is brought forward for discussion.

For the nonce, all that I have to say is that this export duty has been levied in a very fair manner, *i.e.* whatever profits we make out of it, we share equally with the Coffee Board. Normally we would be making by way of excise duty at the rate of about Rs. 21 per cwt., about Rs. 17 lakhs on 4000 tons and the additional amount that we are getting by this export duty is about Rs. 33 lakhs, on the 4000 tons which we might export. And the Coffee Board will be making the same amount, and this amount will be available for them to subsidise the prices for the consumer.

That more or less covers the good intentions—they say oftentimes that hell is paved with good intentions—of my hon. friend Shri S. V. Ramaswamy, who wanted this amount to be earmarked for a particular purpose. I have already cushioned this export duty in such a manner that the money will be available to the Coffee Board.

I have nothing more to say at this stage. However I am grateful that much as some members had to say against the Government's policy or lack of policy or whatever it is, the House generally approved of this levy of an export duty.

**Shri A. V. Thomas**: May I make one submission, Sir? The hon. Minister stated that Robusta coffee grows wild. That statement is not correct, because Robusta coffee does not grow wild.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari**: In relation to 'Plantation A', it does.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: I shall now put the Resolution to the vote of the House. The question is:

> "In pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), the House of the People hereby approves of the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry S. R. O. 1904, dated the 10th October, 1953, by which an export duty of Rs. 62-8-0 per cwt. was levied on coffee with effect from the date of the said notification."

*The motion was adopted.*

## DHOTIES (ADDITIONAL EXCISE DUTY) BILL

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari)**: I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the levy and collection of an ad-

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ditional excise duty on dhoties issued out of mills in excess of the quota fixed for the purpose, be taken into consideration."

I do not propose to tire the House in regard to the background to this Bill, because most hon. Members know about it, and very possibly, most hon. Members will express their opinions in regard to the policy of Government, covered by this particular measure, to which I will have to offer some kind of a reply.

The history of this Bill is this. This is a Bill which supports an ordinance, and replaces it as well. This ordinance was issued on 26th October 1953. There have been a few changes in this Bill, from what is contained in the ordinance. In the ordinance, the term 'permissible quota' was defined as follows: "The permissible quota of dhoties which may be packed during any quarter ....by any mill shall be one-fourth of sixty per cent. of the total percentage of dhoties packed by that mill during the relevant period." In the Bill, however, the word 'packed' occurring for the first time, has been substituted by the word 'issued'. This will mean that the excise duty will be charged on whatever cloth is cleared and not packed. If the cloth is packed and kept in the mill, excise duty will not be charged; it is only when it is cleared, that a duty will be charged.

A proviso has been added to Explanation 1 under clause 3, with a view to providing a fixation of quota in the case of those mills which did not exist during the relevant period, or which came into existence during this period, but did not actually work on dhoti production, or perhaps did not work on full production.

The House would be aware that some time towards the end of November 1952, the Government issued an order, asking the mills to restrict their production of dhoties to 60 per cent. of their production during the year ending 31st March 1952. This was done, especially with a view to helping the handloom industry. In taking this period, the Government chose a period where the overall production of the country has been the highest, roughly about 50,000 bales a month, as against an estimated demand of 45,000 bales. We fixed the quota at about 60 per cent. *viz.* 30,000 bales a month. We felt that in actual fact, the reduction would be limited to the extent of 33 1/3 per cent., and not 40 per cent., so that there will be a little cushioning thereby.

The Textile Commissioner was also authorised in individual cases, to allow certain relaxations. Certain mills were so placed that they could not shift their production to other types of cloth. So far, the Textile Commissioner had allowed relaxations only in the case of 11 mills. Seven out of these are situated in the State of West Bengal, and one in Orissa. These mills have been permitted to produce up to about 80 per cent.

In actual fact, the overall production of dhoties from the period of December 1952—we did not take into account very much the production in December 1952, we started only from January 1953—has been well below the 30,000 bales limit which we fixed. We find that it has been fluctuating in the region between 28,000 and 29,000 bales. So, if we have to assess the benefit or otherwise of this levy, we are in a position to do so.

There has been an overall reduction, and if any benefit has accrued thereby, well, we can say it has. If it has not, it is not because of there being any attempt to defeat this order but because of other causes. So, that, I humbly submit, is one factor to be taken into consideration when hon. Members offer criticism of this measure or on Government's policy.

The other fact, Sir, is that it is true that in certain areas which we

call deficit areas, namely, they do not produce enough cloth for consumption in that area but are dependent on mills producing cloth elsewhere, notably Bombay and Ahmedabad, the restriction has been affecting them to some extent adversely. We have had certain cases where State Governments have felt the restriction was hampering local consumption. This also is a fact that oppresses some hon. Members.

In the case of finer dhoties, the prices went up in certain areas by 30 per cent. and even more. I am told it went up to even 40 per cent; I do not know how far it is true. But my figures show only up to 30 per cent. In the case of coarse, medium and fine qualities, they have gone up anywhere between 10 and 20 per cent. It is nothing surprising, Sir. My hon. friend, Mr. Gandhi, would perhaps tell me that it is bad economics to restrict production and it is even worse as an economic device, to make one industry a parasite on the other. Well, sometimes when we are faced with desperate situations, we seek desperate remedies, which is the only justification for tying up the well-being or production of one industry with the well-being or production of another industry which economically is in an inferior or lower position, so far as its ability to take care of itself is concerned. I am not really going into this question at this stage whether what we did is right or whether what we did is justifiable. I am only stating the facts. Here restriction has been imposed and in response to it in the areas which are deficit and where perhaps the handloom industry does not produce much of dhoties, the prices have gone up. And to that extent State Government have to ask the Central Government to allow greater relaxation. In fact, in West Bengal there has been a certain amount of misbehaviour on the part of the mills, very possibly in some cases justifiably, because in the case of three of the mills I think the quotas that we fixed did not take into account the facts of the situation, namely, they started production only in 1952, they were refugee mills and various other factors for which we have to give weight. But nevertheless, the other mills have also taken advantage of the situation. Of course, the remedy is to prosecute them. But we felt on more mature consideration of all these facts and after consulting the State Ministers, partly by correspondence and partly orally, that we had better devise a self-adjusting mechanism by which we will put an artificial restraint on production. And if people transgress it, some portion of the excess money that they hope to make by selling their goods at a higher profit would be mopped up by means of an excise duty. I am not saying, Sir, that this device is very clever; I am even prepared to say it is clumsy. But it is a device, none the less, and I do not think, Sir, with the limited experience that I possess of the textile industry that the device might conceivably work. That is all, Sir, that I have to say in regard to the measure before the House.

I will offer one word of explanation, Sir, with special reference to the susceptibilities of my hon. friend, Dr. Lanka Sundaram. We issued an Ordinance merely because we felt the position was rather urgent and had to be dealt with immediately. We cannot go on countenancing what is *per se* a defeat of a control order. In several cases, there was justification, a justification strong enough to make us desist from undertaking the logical course of a control order being disobeyed, namely, prosecution. I share with my hon. friend, Dr. Lanka Sundaram, the abhorrence of short-cut legislation, and I have no doubt, Sir, that if I were on that side of the House or even a free Member, I should have voiced my protest in as loud and emphatic a language as my hon. friend did. But here in this case I would like to mention to him a person who, even with his abhorrence of short-cut legislation, has found a justification even for that type of legislation being in the Constitution.

**Dr. Lanka Sundaram** (Visakhapatnam): How long are you going to keep your fetters on?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Karmarkar)**: Notice.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari**: Well, Sir, in human affairs, one cannot predict about the future. Some people go to astrologers, but I prefer to wait on events.

**Dr. Lanka Sundaram**: Or is it a Swan song?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari**: So far as I am concerned, I am perfectly indifferent to what shape events take. Please do not take it as a threat of resignation. I am not resigning.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: Do dhoties include sarees also?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari**: No, Sir. Not in this instance.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: Here only the width is given, not the length.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari**: It does happen that in the case of a particular State, the people use the same length for sarees and dhoties. If it happens that people are for the reason of a penal excise duty prepared to use a longer dhoti—instead of 8 cubits, 10 cubits—and thereby evade this restriction, they are welcome to do so, even though the price of that additional 2 cubits will act as a check which we intend it to do.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: But this stands in the way, 'commonly known by that name'. Sarees of 8 cubits may be produced under this 'dhoties', but because it is not called 'dhoti' but only 'saree', it may escape.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari**: It is merely a matter of length. If actually the fair sex are prepared to use dhoti of only 4 yards—they are progressively coming down and you, Sir, know in our part of the country our women folk were originally used to know of 9 yards length and they have now come down to 5½ yards and they might come to 4 yards......

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: There is no limit round 4 yards.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari**: We have not put any limit because a dhoti will vary from place to place.

I do say, Sir, that there are possibilities of evasion. I do not say it is a foolproof legislation, but it is intended essentially as a check and as a self-acting device so that anybody who wants to transgress...

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: Why not say 'dhoti' includes saree?

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari**: We do not want a restricted production of sarees for the reason that I would be rather chary of doing anything which will wound the susceptibilities of the fair sex. It is bad enough that I have to deal with these men and I certainly won't do anything which would affect either the prices or the supply of sarees.

**The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi)**: In the same way as 'man' includes 'woman', 'dhoti' includes 'saree'.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari**: Obviously, Sir, when we accept Hindi as our State language, we have to remedy that defect. It is apparently a language which needs quite a lot of revision.

Sir, that is roughly the position in regard to this measure. I am expecting, Sir, a lot of criticism. I know—my hon. friend is not here—Mr. Sinhasan Singh was very anxious to speak and a number of hon. Members also. I shall try my best to meet all the points as and when they arise. For the time being, I have nothing more to say.

Sir, I move.

**Several Hon. Members** *rose*—

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker**: I will first of all give preference to hon. Members who wear dhoties and then to those who wear trousers. Motion moved:

> "That the Bill to provide for the levy and collection of an additional excise duty on dhoties issued out of mills in excess of

the quota fixed for the purpose, be taken into consideration."

**Shri Heda** (Nizamabad): This Bill has not come as a surprise to me. In fact when we levied a cess on all the cloth in the mills with a view to encourage the handloom, at that time many remedies were thought of, and one of the remedies was—I think it was Rajaji who suggested it first—to restrict the production of dhoties in the textile mills. And, that was done. To the extent of 40 per cent. the production of dhoties was restricted. That proved a good check. There is no doubt about it. My own reading of the situation is that, at least in my State where there are a good number of handloom weavers, I find that they were on the verge of collapse then and now they are not collapsing. They are not becoming prosperous as they would like to be or as the case was a few years before; but this much is certain, that because of the cess and because of the restriction, the weaver is able to live, is able to stand on his own legs, and the great calamity that was facing us was averted.

Sir, in our country the problem is not only greater production through the mills or big industries. Rather, the main problem before us is the fuller employment of our people because somehow or other we are over-populated and the growth of agriculture and other raw materials is not enough. Therefore, employment as it ought to be is not there. We cannot compare ourselves with the advanced countries like America and others because there employment is full. There, the daily wages of a man are many times more than they are in our country They are the countries where one does not hear about a domestic servant while we have got a good number of them; because to maintain a domestic servant there is not an easy task. Therefore, Sir, according to me, the most important problem that faces our country today and, I hope that would remain facing us for 5 or 10 years to come, would be the fuller employment.

One of the main criticisms that were levelled against our Five Year Plan by Vinobaji was also this. He said that he does not see the full employment in the Plan as it was originally proposed. But, thanks to his criticism and the criticisms that followed—I include my hon. friend Shri S. N. Agarwal whose efforts in this direction were successful—in the final draft of the Five Year Plan, some importance was given to this employment aspect of the whole national problem. After the Plan was laid before us this problem assumed still greater proportions and today it is the most important problem before us.

Sir, in the last session, on various occasions, some points were made by friends who come from what the hon. Minister has termed as the deficit area, particularly the State of West Bengal. I remember my friend who sits behind me, Dr. Das had been always raising his voice that in his State there is a shortage of dhoties because of this restriction, and, therefore, at least so far as that deficit area is concerned, this restriction should not be there. But, I think this Bill has come very handy for the people who are in the deficit area. They have got one advantage. The bulk of the dhoties are produced in Bombay and Ahmedabad and they are taken over from there to Calcutta and other places. Though the cost price of the Calcutta dhoti may be lesser than the cost price of dhoti produced at Bombay or Ahmedabad—when the railway freight is not included in it—yet selling price at Calcutta is the same. I mean this; there is a tendency in the deficit area, particularly in the producers of the deficit area to calculate the cost of their article by including the train freight and other charges. For example, in the South we are short of sugar. In my own State, we have surplus of sugar. But we do not get sugar at reduced rates there. The producers of sugar in Hyderabad always calcu-

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late the price of sugar on the basis of what it would be if it were to be brought from U.P. or Bihar, and they sell it at that rate. In the same way it happened in West Bengal. Therefore, the mills in West Bengal who would like to produce more or rather who were producing more in spite of the restrictions can now produce by giving this additional charge or duty and thereby they would be able to compete with the mills in Bombay or Ahmedabad.

**Dr. M. M. Das** (Burdwan-Reserved-Sch. Castes): A very nice solution.

**Shri Heda:** According to me it is a nice solution. But, Sir, as friends would have noticed, I have given notice of some amendments and I feel that the rate that is charged is rather high. I would like that the rates should not be so high at least in the initial stages because I know another aspect of the problem. The mills or the industry in West Bengal or what is called the deficit area are not so advanced as in Bombay or Ahmedabad. Therefore this high rate, at least in the beginning, would not work well. I am very anxious to give all encouragement to the mills in the deficit areas to produce a greater number of dhoties and thereby meet the demands of the people of their own areas and I would like that the rates that have been proposed in the Bill should not be so exorbitant and that they should be reduced to near about 50 per cent.

Sir, there is one more point that I would like to deal with and that is about the relevant period. In the Bill it is said that the relevant period would be fixed by the Government through a notification. I would like that the Government fixes it as they did when they restricted the dhoties. The same arrangement should carry on and no new arrangement has necessarily to be made. There are very few mills that have been opened after the relevant period and therefore the same arrangement may be continued so far as the provisions of this Bill are concerned. Therefore this matter should not be left to the discretion of the authorities concerned. Rather it should be specified here so that there may be no doubt about it or its execution in the minds of the people. It is just possible that after a time we may not need such a Bill and it may be that we may have to revise the rates. But this would be an experiment in the right direction, as it seeks on the one side to give protection to the handloom industry and on the other side to maintain competition between the handloom and the mill. At the same time, it seeks to maintain competition between mills which are very efficient and those which are less efficient or mills in the surplus areas and the mills in the deficit areas. Therefore, I welcome this move.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I would like to inform hon. Members as to what I consider to be the scope of the Bill. If I am convinced otherwise, I am prepared to allow full discussion. It is only an amending Bill.

**Several Hon. Members:** No. Sir: it is an Ordinance.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The Ordinance is only for the purpose of an amending Bill. Let us not now go into all the details of the original Bill. Hon. Members must confine themselves...

**Several Hon. Members:** Sir, it is an original Bill.

**Shri Sinhasan Singh** (Gorakhpur Distt.—South): It is the first Bill of its kind; it is not an amending Bill.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Already under the Tariff Act there is an excise duty imposed. This is only an additional excise.

**Shri G. D. Somani** (Nagaur—Pali): There was only restriction of production. This Bill is a new Bill: it is not an amending Bill.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Is there no excise duty on cloth produced in this country?

**Shri G. D. Somani:** Yes, Sir.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Is not this an addition to that?

**Shri G. D. Somani:** It is an additional duty for a specific purpose.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** There is already an excise duty on cloth produced in the country.

**Shri K. C. Sodhia:** That was by executive action, Sir; not by a Bill or an Act.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** This Bill supersedes the ordinance. Am I right?

**Shri T. S. A. Chettiar** (Tiruppur): May I request you to look up page 5 of this Bill?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** I now see that clause 6 says that the ordinance is superseded by this Bill. I don't know why hon. Members say "No, no; the ordinance stands."

**Shri T. S. A. Chettiar:** This is not an amending Bill to any other bill.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** This is an amending Bill to the Tariff Act. That is my conception and I would like to be told if I am not right. Section 4(2) says that "the duty of excise referred to in sub-section (1) shall be in addition to the duty of excise chargeable on cloth under the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944) and the Khadi and other Handloom Industries Development..." The scope of the Bill is to impose an additional excise duty on additional cloth produced over and above the 60% allotted. Hon. Members will confine themselves to this and not to the 60% and 40%.

**Dr. Lanka Sudaram:** The Statement of Objects and Reasons says—

> "With a view to assisting the handloom industry, the Government of India in January, 1953 passed orders restricting the production of dhoties by mills to 60%.. "

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Can we go on discussing the handloom industry? Whether this helps or does not help; in what other ways you can go on helping the handloom industry; these have been discussed already. All that is relevant for the purpose of this Bill is only to be discussed now.

**Shri Gadgil** (Poona Central): Excuse me, Sir, for a minute. Even if this is only an amending Bill, the results that follow the enactment of this particular ordinance are matters of legitimate discussion. Already, as a result of what has been enacted, prices have gone up and if there is a further restriction on the manufacture of dhoties, what will be the effect on the vast population who use mill-made dhoties—not on some of us who use khadi. The entire textile policy, in my opinion, is a matter for legitimate discussion even if it is an amending Bill.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Let me have one other point cleared. Did the House have an opportunity to discuss the question of 60 per cent. *versus* 40 per cent.?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy** (Salem): It was by an executive order and so the point was never discussed here.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** All right, the handloom will have its own way.

**Shri M. Khuda Baksh** (Murshidabad): Sir, the hon. Minister tried to tell the House that the...

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** The hon. Member will kindly sit down for a minute and let all the other Members go on talking and finish it first. They can talk outside—they cannot disturb the House. I am really sorry to say this again. The hon. Member may proceed now.

**Shri M. Khuda Baksh:** The definition of 'dhoti' is likely to be construed, as it now stands, to include a sari. It says—,

> "(i) is manufactured by a mill either wholly from cotton or partly from cotton and partly from any other material;
>
> (ii) contains coloured yarn on its borders;

[Shri M. Khuda Baksh]

(iii) has a width ranging between twenty-eight inches and fifty-four inches; and

(iv) is commonly known by that name;"

To me it looks that item (iv) is to refer to dhoti and the first three may also include a sari. Therefore, I consider that it is desirable that this may be clarified beyond any doubt as it is not the intention of the Ministry to bring in sari under the purview or mischief of this Bill.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It is items (i), (ii) and (iii) and (iv), and not or (iv). Therefore it applies to all the items. Unless it is called dhoti, it will not come in here. If ladies also use dhoti,—I don't think that happens here—it will come under the purview of this Bill.

**Shri M. Khuda Baksh:** If it does not include sari, I am happy and appreciate the Minister's concession in this respect.

Coming to the Bill, this is a punitive measure. The Minister has said that he will collect a duty, but in effect, it is a fine. Let us see, Sir, the circumstances that have led the Ministry to bring in this Bill. They had passed an executive order imposing restrictions on the production of a certain type of textiles, namely, dhoties and saris, which are commonly manufactured in the textile mills in India. I should like to be enlightened on certain points before I can make my observations. Therefore, I will listen to the reply that the Minister makes to the speeches made in general on this question.

The Ministry must have had some machinery for imposing the restrictions. I rather imagine that the Ministry addressed the State Governments for co-operation with them in the implementation of their order. What that machinery was the House is yet to know.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Is it not a fact that there is a central Excise Officer in every mill having an eye on every day production?

**Shri M. Khuda Baksh:** It was an executive order. I want to know what was the machinery that was employed to see to its implementation that mills conform to the desire of the Government, regarding the production of dhoties by all mills to the permissible limit of 60%. We should also like to know from the Ministry where are those offending mills. The Minister has been good enough to say that by and large the mills have been in accord with the desire of the Ministry and they have conformed to the order and implemented the restrictions, but there are yet certain offending mills. We should like to know their location.

**An Hon. Member:** In West Bengal.

**Shri M. Khuda Baksh:** An hon. Member has just now said they were in West Bengal. It may be in Bihar also and there may be other mills located elsewhere in India. Therefore, it touches me as I come from Bengal and I should like to know why is it that those Bengal mills offended against a Central decree? If it was left to the State Government to see to its implementation, why should that State Government feel constrained not to implement it? Sir, I remember that a question was asked in the House as to whether or not the Bengal mills had produced in excess of their quota and what the Central Government proposed to do to bring the refractory mills to book. The House was also told that the West Bengal Government did not quite see the desirability of interfering with the production by these mills. *A priori* I should suggest that there must be very sound and justifiable reasons for the West Bengal Government not to interfere with production by textile mills.

Now because this Government, the Government of West Bengal, felt that

it was in public interest to continue production of certain types of textiles, they continued to do so. The Bill has been brought before Parliament for making it a penal offence. Let us consider how exactly these punitive measures affect the mills.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Are they prosecuted for this?

**Shri M. Khuda Baksh:** Well, Sir, the duty is in the nature of a fine, because it says that there will be a permissiable quota and if any mills produce in execess of that permissible quota, for 12½ per cent, they will be levied a duty, which is a fine of two annas per yard. If they produce more than 25 per cent. beyond the permissible quota, it would be three annas and so on. It is a graduated affair. Now, Sir, in Bengal, the mills are so equipped, machinically and otherwise, for the production of dhoties and sarees mainly. If you restrict the production of dhoties and sarees of those mills, it will lead to rending capacity surplus of those factories, and it will then lead to unemployment, because if we enforce this, or if we succeed in enforcing this—we do not mean to succeed, because we have made it an offence—they can get away with it by paying that extra fine. I shall come to it later, when I come to compare the advantages and disadvantages of the effect this will have on the price structure of the entire textile products, and I shall then have occasion to mention that later. Now, I shall confine myself to this aspect of the question which is that the mills are mainly equipped for the production of a particular kind of textiles, and if we we are going to restrict that particular kind, it will cause hardship to those mills. This is what probably weighed with the Government of the State of West Bengal in not interfering with their production programme, and they allowed the mills to produce what they wanted and what they could produce consistent with the demand in the country and consistent with economy.

Another thing that I would like this House to bear in mind is the character of the capital that is invested in these mills in West Bengal. The House knows that most of those mills are virtually refugee mills, that is to say, Sir, they have salvaged the capital from mills now existing in East Bengal and they have moved whatever they could salvage, and they have brought them over to West Bengal and employed in the mills. They have so equipped the mills as to meet the requirements of the market. If this operates in Ahmedabad, whatever restrictions are imposed, they can make good the loss in production of dhoti by switching over to other kinds of textiles, poplins and other things. But in West Bengal the other kinds of textiles have no market—these fine shirting and other textiles. Therefore, whatever loomage there is at present will remain idle because of this restrictive order, and that will result in unemployment.

The next question that arises is: what machinery will Government employ to enforce this Act. I am apprehensive on this account. I, as a consumer, will not be able to tell which particular dhoti has been produced within the permissible quota and which particular dhoti has been produced outside the permissible quota. I would know, Sir, that a dhoti produced outside the permissible quota shall involve me in paying more—if it is within the 12½ per cent—to the tune of 12 annas or 10 annas per dhoti, and the shopkeeper would be perfectly justified in asking me to pay the 10 or 12 annas that he has to pay to the millowner and the millowner has to pay to the Excise Department by way of duty under this Act. Not knowing which one has been produced within the permissible quota which will bear no such additional duty and which one has been produced outside the quota, there will be a pool and the prices will be pooled and an average will be charged. What will be the result? I shall be called upon to pay, if I want a mill-made *dhoti* in

[Shri M. Khuda Baksh]

preference to the hondloom *dhoti*, more than what I am paying now. It will not suprise you if I tell you that this very news has resulted in a sharp rise in price, as it is, in the finer counts. Government charges excise duty, etc., and cesses are collected, and this will be an additional burden passed on to the consumers.

[SHRI PATASKAR *in the Chair*]

Therefore, the result will be, when we want to punish the mills for not toeing the line, shall we say, of the Commerce and Industry Ministry, the penalty will be realised from the consumer who, willingly or unwillingly, has to buy a mill-made dhoti.

A Bengali whose chief article of wear is dhoti and kurta—for all formal or informal gatherings people go in dhoti and kurta—would not probably like to buy khadi or the cottage industry articles. A person there would like dhoties of finer counts I want this House to bear this in mind that this, in effect protects the khadi and handloom products to the extent of the duty that shall be realized under this Act. But it will still be a mill-made cloth, cheaper in point of price than khadi or a product of cottage industry. Therefore, people would be prepared to pay the higher price and still have to buy mill-made cloth. Therefore, I cannot understand the reason or logic of this Bill. Let me be pardoned—I do not understand this, and I hope the Minister will tell the House and me the reason and logic behind this Bill, because if we want to punish the millowners, we can punish them by sending them to prison. I understand that. "You have violated orders: you are convicted and you go to jail". But, Sir, permitting them to produce cloth over and above the permissible quota and then charging the price and realising the fine from the poor consumer who is already very hard hit as it is, and making things go further beyond his buying capacity, I sumit, is beyond my comprehension.

Again, this will have the effect of placing the Bengal produced dhoties and sarees at a serious disadvantage *vis a vis* the Bombay and Ahmedabad produced sarees. It is apparent that this Bill has been designed against those mills of Bengal and Bihar who have produced for very good reasons —I do not know what the reasons are—but for very good reasons, more than what the Central Government thought they should produce. This will place their products at a serious disadvantage in point of price.

Now, Sir, I come to another question.

**Shri S. N. Das** (Darbhanga Central): Why did they produce?

**Shri M. Khuda Baksh:** They produced, because they invested money. Being industrialists and being interested in getting return for their money, they produced what they could sell. And if they produced what they could sell, and therefore had a turnover and made some profits, the Income-tax Department and the Excise Department were the happier for it.

**Shri S. N. Das:** Would you like them to be sent to jail?

**Shri M. Khuda Baksh:** I can understand that proposition. If you want to punish the millowners, do it. But when you say, 'punish the millowners', in effect you are punishing me. That is the point and that is the position which I do not understand.

Sir, no indication has been given as to how the money realised from this duty will be used. Will it be diverted to the khadi and cottage industries fund? Or, how is it going to be utilized? Coming to that, Sir, it would be pertinent again to ask, what progress had that particular Department made? How popular it has become with the Indian consumers—all this will have to be gone into and taken into consideration. Merely making speeches here in support of

khadi and cottage industries will take us nowhere. If we mean business, we must be able to tell the country that this is what we have achieved in that particular field and this is what we propose to do and this additional duty realized on this account will be sent there. Even there I would be one of those who would be questioning whether it is right and proper to give them any more money without going into the question and assessing what they have done and how far they have developed in the direction they are expected to develop.

5 P.M.

Sir, I have mentioned this—but I want to mention it again for the sake of emphasis—that this Bill will lead to all kinds of corrupt practices. I shall not say it will, because there are many mill-owners who are very straightforward, but it is likely to. As I said, I will not know which particular dhoti is within the permissible limit. I shall be saddled with an additional duty and there is bound to be an increase in prices. This will lead to all sorts of corrupt practices.

Therefore, I would request Government to examine this from all angles, they should call a conference of the so-called offending mills who did not quite see the reason of the restrictive order, or did not co-operate with the Central Government in restricting their products, find out if they have any reasons, valid reasons, to advance, and meet those reasons. Government have taken cognizance of the fact that there will be certain mills which are so equipped that they will be affected adversely by this order. For them a certain concession is proposed to be made. But I for one think that this concession is nowhere near enough. They will have to be consulted and their point of view met. These mills which are placed in a peculiar situation should not be penalised. They should be given freedom to develop according to their own lights.

**पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव (गुड़गांव)** : यह बिल जिस शक्ल में आया है उस के उसूल को, कि मिल के कपड़े पर ड्यूटी लगायी जाये इस गरज से कि हैंडलूम इंडस्ट्री को फरोग़ दिया जा सके, तो हाउस तसलीम कर चुका है। यह सही है कि थोड़ा अर्सा हुआ हम ने खादी एंड हैंडलूम इंडस्ट्री डेवेलपमेंट ऐक्ट, १९५३ पास किया और उस वक्त इस हाउस ने इस उसूल को मान लिया था कि मिल के कपड़े पर ड्यूटी लगाई जा सके ताकि उस रुपये से और उस मजीद रुपये से जो गवर्नमेंट इस बारे में देना चाहे, हम हैंडलूम इंडस्ट्री को तरक्की दे सकें और इस तरीके से जो देश में इतना अनएम्प्लायमेंट है उस को दूर करने में कामयाब हों, जिस वक्त यह बिल हाउस के एनविल पर था उस वक्त भी बहुत सी तकरीरें हुई थीं और यह मामला हाउस में पेश हुआ था। उस बिल पर बोलते हुए मैं ने निहायत अदब से आनरेबिल कामर्स मिनिस्टर साहब की खिदमत में अर्ज किया था कि आप उन अशखास में से हैं कि जो इस कांस्टीट्यूशन को बनाने वाले हैं, जिस कांस्टीट्यूशन में गवर्नमट आफ इंडिया पर यह जिम्मेदारी डाली गई है कि अपनी पालिसी से इस तरह से कार्यवाही इस देश में करे कि अनएम्प्लायमेंट खत्म हो जाये, यहां पर हर एक आदमी को खाने को रोटी मिले, पहनने को कपड़ा मिले, और सर ढकने को छत मिल सके और यहां से अनएम्प्लायमेंट खत्म हो जाये। उसका एक जरिया जो उस बिल में सोचा गया और जिस के ऊपर आज गवर्नमेंट जोर दे रही है, वह यह था कि जहां तक हो सके काटेज इंडस्ट्रीज को बढ़ाया जाये। मैं देखता हूं कि इस देश की काटेज इंडस्ट्रीज में एक वीविंग की

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव]

ही ऐसी इंडस्ट्री है जिस को तरक्की देने की गुंजाइश है । लेकिन ज्यों ही एक वीविंग मिल खुलती है उसका असर यह होता है कि हजारों जुलाहे बेकार हो जाते हैं । इस वास्ते इस जिम्न में जब इस देश के नेता श्री राजगोपालाचार्य ने यह तजवीज पेश की कि फिलहाल ४० फीसदी धोतियों को हैंडलूम वीवर्स को दे दिया जाय और मिल्स को उन के वीव करने से रोका जाय, उस वक्त देश में इस तजवीज को आम तौर पर सपोर्ट किया गया था ।

**श्री सिंहासन सिंह** (जिला गोरखपुर दक्षिण) : उन्हों ने तो सेंट पर सेंट कहा था ।

**पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव** : अगर यह दुरुस्त है जैसा कि मेरे लायक दोस्त फरमाते हैं कि उन्हीं को यह सारा काम दे दिया जाय तो जो मैं आरगुमेंट कर रहा था वह और भी मजबूत हो जाता है । मैं ने हाउस में उस वक्त अर्ज किया था जिस वक्त कि यह खादी एंड हैंड लूम इंडस्ट्री डेवेलपमेंट बिल आया था, कि गो मेरी राय में यह प्रैक्टिकेबिल नहीं है लेकिन मैं चाहता हूं कि इस देश के अन्दर एक एक कपड़ा जो बने वह इस देश के जुलाहों द्वारा बनाया जाय । यह स्वदेशी का मूवमेंट बंगाल में चला था, पर आज मुझे अफसोस है कि हमारे बंगाली भाई एक दूसरे चेन में बोल रहे हैं । देश में इस मूवमेंट को बड़ा फरोग हासिल हुआ था । हमारे राष्ट्र पिता महात्मा गांधी ने यह हुक्म सादिर फरमाया था कि बिदेशी कपड़े को जला दिया जाय और उस वक्त हमने देखा कि बहुत जगह पर ढेरों बिदेशी कपड़ा जलाया गया । एक बहुत इंटरेस्टिंग डिबेट जो मुझे उस जमाने की याद आती है वह हमारे स्वर्गीय टैगोर महाराज और गांधी जी महाराज के दरम्यान हुई थी और वह पढ़ने के काबिल है । गो दोनों की राय मुतजाद थी लेकिन उन्हों ने जो आर्टिकल माडर्न रिव्यू में लिखे हैं वह पढ़ने के काबिल हैं । वह एक बहुत अच्छा मजबून हमारे सामने पेश करते हैं कि उस जमाने में किस तरह से पालिटिक्स चलती थी इन आर्टिकिल्स से उस वक्त की पालिटिक्स पर काफी रोशनी पड़ती है । लेकिन मैं इस वक्त उस में नहीं जाऊंगा । मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि चन्द रोज हुए हाउस में हम ने इस अनएम्प्लायमेंट के मसले के ऊपर कई रोज खर्च किये थे । मेरी अदब से गुजारिश है कि मुझे अभी ऐसे पालिटीशियन से मिलना बाकी है जो मुझे यह यकीन दिला सके कि वीविंग इंडस्ट्री के अलावा और कोई दूसरी ऐसी काटेज इंडस्ट्री है जो कि ज्यादा से ज्यादा एम्प्लायमेंट दे सकती है । मैं जानता हूं कि अभी यह प्रेक्टिकेबिल प्रापोजीशन नहीं है कि सारा कपड़ा वीवर्स ही बना सकें । बंगाल के भाई यह शिकायत करते हैं कि हैंडलूम से इतनी धोतियां नहीं बन सकतीं कि जो मिल की धोतियों की जगह पूरा काम दे सकें । मैं इस चीज से वाकिफ हूं । लेकिन मैं यह बतलाना चाहता हूं कि जब हम एक सिचुएशन को बिल्कुल तबदील करना चाहते हैं तो उस में तकलीफ जरूर होगी और इस तकलीफ को हम को बरदाश्त करना होगा । जब कि वह बिल आया था तो मैं ने अर्ज किया था कि मैं वह दिन देखना चाहता हूं कि हमारे देश का सारा कपड़ा हैंडलूम के जरिये बने और साथ ही मैं ने यह भी अर्ज किया कि हर एक हिन्दुस्तानी को यह मान लेना चाहिए कि अगर वह चाहता है कि आयन्दा हिन्दुस्तान में अनएम्पलायमेंट न रहे तो उसका एक जरिया यही है कि सब

लोग हैंडलूम के कपड़े पहनें । आज सरकार ने एक एग्जीक्यूटिव आर्डर पास किया कि ४० पर सेंट धोतियां बनाने की मानोपली हैंडलूम इंडस्ट्री को दी जाय और ६० रहे मिलों के पास। इस हाउस की उस बारे में बिल्कुल राय नहीं ली गयी और मैं गाडगिल साहब से सहमत हूं कि हाउस को उस पर अपनी राय देने का मौका होना चाहिए था। मुमकिन है कि बहुत से असहाब की रायें मुझ से इत्तिफाक न करती लेकिन मैं चाहता हूं कि हाउस के सामने दोनों साइड्स आ जातीं । मेरी राय तो यह है कि उन को सेंट पर सेंट धोतियां बनाने की मानोपली मिल जाती। पहले धोती की मानोपली मिलती और बाद अजां सारे कपड़े का मामला हैंडलूम को दे दिया जाता और हमारी मिल्स सिर्फ स्पिनिंग करतीं । इस देश के अन्दर स्पिनिंग रेम्यूनेरेटिव नहीं है । अगर रेम्यूनेरेटिव होता तो मेरी सेंट पर सेंट राय है कि स्पिनिंग और वीविंग के जरिये इस देश से अनएम्प्लायमेंट दूर हो सकती है ।

**बाबू रामनारायण सिंह** (हजारीबाग पश्चिम) : स्पिनिंग भी रेम्यूनेरेटव है ।

**पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव** : मैं पिछले तीस बत्तीस साल से खादी का काम करता चला आ रहा हूं और मैं ने यह देखा है कि स्पिनिंग के जरिये आम तौर पर लोगों को इतनी आमदनी नहीं होती जिस से उन का गुजारा चल सके । इस वास्ते मेरी यह राय है । मैं जानता हूं कि मेरे बहुत से दोस्तों की राय, जिन की मैं बहुत कद्र करता हूं, यह है कि अगर हालात तबदील कर दिये जायें तो स्पिनिंग भी रेमूनेरेटिव हो सकता है। अगर यह तजुरबा कामयाब हो सके तो मैं चाहूंगा कि दोनों ही काम हाथ से किये जायें और मिलों को इजाजत न दी जाये कि वह हजारों आदमियों की रोजी मारें ।

तो अब इस को इम्प्लीमेंट करने का कौन सा तरीका है। क्या उस को इम्प्लीमेंट करने का यह कायदा है जैसा कि गवर्नमेंट कर रही है । और यह बिल हमारे सामने लायी है । अभी हमारे बंगाल के दोस्त ने बतलाया कि यह तो मिलों को सजा नहीं बल्कि कनज्यूमर को सजा है। मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि जब इस सरकार ने यह कानून पास कर दिया और उस में इस बात की पूरी गुंजाइश रखी है कि जिन मिलों के पास धोती बनाने का ही काम है उन का कोटा भी बढ़ा रखा जाय दूसरों के मुकाबले में, तो फिर यह कौनसा तरीका है कि आप ऐडीशनल ड्यूटी लें। इस हालत में जो मिल कसूर करेगी तो उस का क्या नतीजा होगा? उस का यही नतीजा होगा कि जो हालात आप सन् १९५३ के बिल के जरिये बनाना चाहते हैं वह नहीं बनें और न इस से वीवर्स को फायदा पहुंचता है । जिस सिचुएशन का आप इलाज करना चाहते थे उस का इलाज इस से नहीं होगा ।

लेकिन आप कैसे कहते हैं कि इस का इलाज यह है कि उस के ऊपर दो आने गज, चार आने गज, छः आने गज या आठ आने गज से उन का भाव बढ़ा दें। अगर आप इस तरह से बढ़ा देंगे तो जो कुछ मिलों को देना पड़ता है, उस से उन को नुक्सान नहीं होता । उन को जो ड्यूटीज देनी पड़ती है, उस को वह दूसरों पर पास कर देते हैं । बल्कि चूंकि कंट्रोल हट गया है तो उस से वह ज्यादा कमा सकते हैं । तो इस से मिल वालों को गेन है, नुक्सान नहीं । उन का तो फायदा है अगर उन का माल बिक जाय और ज्यादा कीमत पर बिक जाये क्योंकि प्राइस कंट्रोल नहीं रहा है, तो क्या होगा? वह इससे भी ज्यादा फायदा उठावेंगे और उन को इस

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इंसेंटिव होगा कि वह इस कानून को तोड़ें। क्या कोई ऐसा भी कानन बनता है कि जिस में कानून तोड़ने वाले को सजा न हो बल्कि फायदा हो। मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि यह तरीका इस को रोकने का जायज नहीं है। दर अस्ल जो सिचुएशन है, जो गवर्नमेंट चाहती है, जो गवर्नमेंट के दिल में है, वह तो स्टेटमेंट आफ आबजेक्ट्स एंड रीजन्स के पहले फिकरे में दिया हुआ है। वह क्या है?

"With a view to assisting the handloom industry, the Government of India in January, 1953, passed orders restricting the production of dhoties by mills to 60 per cent. of their average monthly production during the period April, 1951 to March, 1952."

यह दुरुस्त है कि हैंडलूम इंडस्ट्री को मदद देने की खातिर यह किया गया है। लेकिन मैं अदब से पूछना चाहता हूं कि यह जो रुपया एडीशनल ड्यूटी के जरिये हासिल होगा, यह कहां जायेगा, इस का क्या होगा? यह सरकार के खजाने में जायगा, लोगों की तनख्वाह बढ़ाने में जायगा और गवर्नमेंट के काम करने में जायगा, जनरल रेवैन्यू में शामिल होगा। अगर हैंडलूम इंडस्ट्री को असिस्ट करना है तो इस रुपये को आप वहां लगावें जहां कि इस को लगाना है। मैं अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि कम से कम यह चीज तो इस में रखनी चाहिये थी कि यह रुपया हैंडलूम इंडस्ट्री की मदद के लिये काम में लाया जायगा। अभी जो प्रावीजन है वह काफी नहीं है। अगर आप हैंडलूम इंडस्ट्री को फरोग देना चाहते हैं तो आप को वह प्रावीजन करना चाहिये या कि लोग मजबूर हो कर वीवर के बने हुए कपड़े को पहनने लगें। अगर कपड़े की कमी होगी तो वह ज्यादा कीमत का रुपया वीवर के पास जावेंगे। लेकिन यह तो एक तरह से यह हुआ कि घड़े में आप पानी डालना शुरू करते हैं और नीचे उस के सूराख कर देते हैं, तो वह घड़ा पानी से कैसे भरेगा। मैं अदब से अर्ज करूंगा कि यह कायदा ठीक नहीं है और यह तरीका जो आप ने अख्तियार किया है यह ठीक नहीं है। जो मकसद आप हासिल करना चाहते हैं वह दर असल इस से हासिल नहीं होगा। फायदा नहीं तो कम से कम यह तो इस में रख देते कि जो ऐडीशनल ड्यूटी होगी वह तो हैंडलूम के काम में लगेगी, यह फायदा तो हैंडलूम इंडस्ट्री को पहुंचाया होता। अभी तो इस से एक तरफ फायदा गवर्नमेंट उठाना चाहती है कि गवर्नमेंट के जनरल रैवेन्यूज़ में रुपया चला जाय और दूसरी तरफ मिल वालों को यह फायदा देना चाहती है कि वह चाहे जिस कीमत पर बेच लें। जब जरूरत होगी तो लोग ज्यादा कीमत दे कर भी वह कपड़ा लेंगे, आठ आने गज ज्यादा होगा तो वह भी देंगे।

इसलिये या तो ऐसी सूरत हो जाये कि हैंडलूम में ऐसी धोतियां बनें जिस से मिल इंडस्ट्री का मुकाबला किया जा सके, वह इतनी नरम हो, खूबसूरत व सस्ती हो। लेकिन यह फिर भी सप्लाई और डिमांड का सवाल है। सप्लाई और डिमांड के लाज इतने रूथलैस हैं कि वे कभी काबू में नहीं आ सकते। मैं समझता हूं कि सप्लाई और डिमांड के कायदे के बाहर आप नहीं जा सकते। इस वास्ते मैं ने दो एक अमेंडमेंट भेजे हैं, जो गालिबन अगर यह बिल कल तक चलेगा तो हाउस के रूबरू आजावेंगी। लेकिन मैं समझता हूं कि आनरेबिल मिनिस्टर साहब को वे मालूम हो चुकी होंगी। मैं अदब से यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि यह जो रुपया

इस में से हासिल हो वह सारे का सारा रुपया हैंडलूम इंडस्ट्री की इमदाद में खर्च किया जाय ।

दूसरी बात यह है कि आज में समझ सकता हूं उन मैम्बरों की शिकायत जो कि बंगाल से तशरीफ लाये हैं कि वहां पर धोतियां नहीं हैं और गरीब आदमी जिस को धोती और कुरता ही इस्तेमाल करना है, वह भी उस को नहीं मिल पाता । मैं जानता हूं कि दुनिया में कपड़े का और जगह क्या औसत है । कहीं कहीं चालीस गज औसत है, मैं वहां की बात नहीं करता, हमारे देश में ११ से १५ गज तक का औसत है । तो जहां यह औसत है, वहां मैं किसी कंज्यूमर से यह नहीं कह सकता कि यह कपड़ा भी उस को मुहैया न हो और वह इतना कपड़ा भी न पहने । इन्सान नंगा कैसे रह सकता है ? अगर उस को कपड़ा मिलेगा तो जरूर मिल क्लाथ इस्तेमाल किया जायगा । आप थोड़े से आदमियों से ऐक्सपैक्ट कर सकते हैं कि वह खादी पहिनें । लेकिन जब तक कि खादी बमुकाबले मिल के कपड़े के सस्ती और अच्छी नहीं होती, तब तक आप सब को इस खादी के पहनने के लिये मजबूर नहीं कर सकते । मिल का कपड़ा तब तक जरूर खरीदा जायगा जब तक कि वह मिलेगा । इसलिये जब कि वह कपड़ा खरीदा जायगा और चूंकि मिल के कपड़े में कोई खराबी नहीं है, हमारे मिल का कपड़ा बाहर भेजा जाता है, इसलिये जो भी दाम होंगे लोग देंगे । अगर हमारे मिल के कपड़े में खराबी होती तो वह बाहर नहीं भेजना चाहिये था । आज जो कपड़ा हमारे मिलों के अन्दर बनता है और बाहर के मिलों का जो कपड़ा आता है, तो म अदब से अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि बदरजे बाहर के कपड़े के मैं चाहता हूं कि लोग हमारे मिलों का बना कपड़ा पहनें । बमुकाबले फौरन क्लाथ के मैं चाहता हूं कि लोग हमारा मिल मेड क्लाथ इस्तेमाल करें । इस वक्त दिल्ली के बाजार में अगर कोई बाहरी आदमी जा कर देखे तो वह हैरान हो जायगा कि क्या यह देश भूका है, जहां करोड़ों रुपये का फौरन क्लाथ सुबह से शाम तक दुकानों पर बेचा जाता है । उस को देख कर हमें शर्म आती है । कोई वक्त था कि जब सुरेन्द्र नाथ बनर्जी ने स्वदेशी का मूवमेंट चलाया था और लोगों ने फौरन क्लाथ लेने से मना कर दिया था । लेकिन आज उसी देश में विदेशी कपड़ा आराम से आता है । पिछले दिनों हाउस को याद होगा कि नौ करोड़ रुपये का कपड़ा इस देश के अन्दर इम्पोर्ट किया गया । हम ने पंडित नेहरू साहब से, प्राइम मिनिस्टर से, शिकायत की कि यह कैसा तमाशा हिन्दुस्तान में है कि महात्मा गांधी के देश में विदेशी कपड़ा इस तरह से आता है कि जिस तरह से वह नहीं आना चाहिये था । उन्हों ने कहा कि मुझे इस का कुछ पता नहीं कि कैसे आ गया, कामर्स मिनिस्टर साहब से पूछो । उन से पूछने पर वह कहते हैं कि हम को पता नहीं कि किस तरह से आ गया । तो नौ करोड़ रुपये का कपड़ा इस तरह से हमारे देश में आ गया ।

इसलिये अगर आप सचमुच हैंडलूम इन्डस्ट्री को असिस्ट करना चाहते हैं तो पहला काम तो आप के लिये यह है कि आप बाहर के फौरेन क्लाथ का यहां आना बिल्कुल बन्द कर दीजिये । अगर आप बिजिनैस भी न करते हैं, अगर आप चाहते हैं कि इस देश में स्वदेशी मूवमेंट जोर पकड़े, अगर आप चाहते हैं कि अनएम्प्लायमेंट दूर हो, तो मैं चाहता हूं कि यह इम्पोर्ट बिलकुल बन्द कर दिया जाय । यह अनएम्प्लायमेंट तभी दूर होगी जब कि यहां की इंडस्ट्री को आप ऐनकरेज

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव]

करेंगे । जब कि इस देश की बनी हुई चीजें ही आदमी इस्तेमाल करेंगे । आप देखिये कि किस तरह का कपड़ा इस देश में पैदा नहीं हो सकता सिवाय ऐसे कपड़े के और कपड़े को इम्पोर्ट न होने दीजिये । क्या आप बाहर का कपड़ा मंगा कर इस तरह की खराबी बढ़ाना चाहते हैं कि यहां के लोग देश में अनएम्प्लायड रहें और भूकों मरें और बाहर का कपड़ा लोग पहिनें । रस्किन ने क्या कहा था कि क्रेज और बेग्ज का रैग्ज पर यक्सां असर होता है । आप अगर मिल वालों को फरोग दें बमुकाबले फारेन कैपिटेलिस्ट के तो मुझे कोई ऐतराज नहीं है । मैं चाहता हूं कि बमुकाबले फारेन क्लाथ वालों के आप यहां के मिल वालों को फायदा पहुंचायें । लेकिन जहां तक रैग्ज का सवाल है, जहां तक अनएम्प्लायमेंट का सवाल है, जहां तक गरीब आदमी का सवाल है, उस के वास्ते दोनों या फोरेन क्लौथ व मिल क्लौथ का असर एक ही है । अगर आप चाहते हैं कि देश में अनएम्प्लायमेंट दूर हो तो यहां पर स्वदेशी की नयी स्पिरिट को लाना पड़ेगा । आप उस के लिये यह ४० परसेंट धोतियों को क्यों लेते हैं ? आप को तो सारा कपड़ा हैंडलूम से बनवाना होगा । मैं जानता हूं कि आप आज यह एक दम से नहीं कर सकते है । अगर आप आज कर दें तो देश में एक कैटैस्ट्राफी आ जायेगी जब कि कपड़े की इतनी कमी है । आप आज इस को नहीं कर सकते । मैं इस के लिये इस कदर फैनेटिक नहीं हूं । लेकिन मैं यह जरूर चाहता हूं कि फौरेन क्लाथ को बिल्कुल नहीं आने देना चाहिये । आप इस को बन्द नहीं करते और साठ और चालीस परसेंट धोतियों के झंझट में पड़ जाते हैं । आप ऐसे काउंट्स (counts) का कपड़ा जो हेंडलूम में इस्तेमाल होता है मिल्स से बनवाना बन्द कर दें और यह सारा का सारा कपड़ा हेंडलूम से बनवाना शुरू कर दें—तो ज्यादा प्रभावित होगा ।

मैं एक प्रपोजीशन और रखता हूं । मैं जानता हूं कि देश में कपड़े की कमी है । अभी तक हेंडलूम ने इतनी तरक्की नहीं की कि हम को इतनी धोतियां मुहैया कर सके कि हर एक आदमी पहन सके । इसलिये आप कम से कम एक साल की मुहलत दीजिये कि सन् १९५४ के बाद उस तरह का कपड़ा मिल्स के अन्दर न बने । मैं इस के लिये नहीं कहता कि एक साल ही हो, एक साल हो या दो साल हो, या चाहे जो अरसा हो, उस के तय करने के लिये मैं गवर्नमेंट को ही बैस्ट जज समझता हूं कि वह इस को तय करे । उस के पास ऐक्सपर्टस हैं, मैं तो लेमैन की हैसियत से एक उसूली बात पेश करता हूं कि एक साल के बाद या ऐसे अरसे के बाद जिस को गवर्नमेंट मुनासिब समझे, अगर गवर्नमेंट के परमिसिबिल कोटा के ऊपर अगर कोई कपड़ा बनावे तो यही नहीं कि उस पर यह ऐडीशनल ड्यूटी लगे, बल्कि उस का वह कपड़ा भी फारफीट कर दिया जाय । अगर आप यह चीज रक्खेंगे तो उन को मालूम होगा । ड्यूटी भी देनी पड़ेगी और कपड़ा भी फोरफिट होजायगा तो शायद उन पर कुछ प्रभाव पड़े और वह धोतियों के बारे में आप के हुक्म को मानना शुरू करें ।

इस के अलावा और दूसरी चीजें हैं । कभी कभी आप बहुत ड्रैस्टिक स्टेप लेना चाहते हैं और बड़े सख्त कानून आप पास करते हैं । कितने ही बिल आप के देखे हैं, मिल पर भी आप कब्जा करते हैं, मिल का हिसाब भी ले लेते हैं और डायरेक्टर्स को

भी निकाल देते हैं । इस से क्या मैं नतीजा निकालूं कि आप इस बिल के बारे में बहुत सिंसियर नहीं हैं क्योंकि जुर्म के लिये जो सजा है वह बहुत मीठी है । क्या मैं यह नतीजा निकालूं कि अभी मिल मालिकों के हक में जो उन के दिल के अन्दर साफ्ट कार्नर है, उस के अन्दर अभी सख्ती आना शुरू नहीं हुई है ? मेरी अदब से गुजारिश यह है कि अगर आप दरअसल इस मामले को ठीक नुक्ते निगाह से जांचना चाहते हैं तो पहली चीज जो मैं अर्ज करूंगा वह यह है क्योंकि, सारी टैक्सटाइल इंडस्ट्री और सारी पालिसी इस वक्त हाउस के सामने है, मैं अदब से आप की खिदमत में अर्ज करूंगा कि जितना बाहर का कपड़ा आता है उस कपड़े में से केवल उस कपड़े को छोड़ कर जिस की बहुत ज्यादा जरूरत हो और जिस के मंगाये बगैर काम नहीं चल सकता हो उस कपड़े को छोड़ कर आप बाकी सारे कपड़े का इम्पोर्ट बन्द कर दें और ऐसा करने में आप को कोई नुकसान नहीं होगा ।

दूसरी चीज मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि आप को पालिसी और कोशिश यह होनी चाहिये कि आयन्दा जितना कपड़ा हैंडलूम से बन सकता है, आप मिल में उस कपड़े का बनना बन्द कर दें, यह मैं जानता हूं कि इस से मुमकिन है मिल की वह मशीन आइडिल पड जाय, लेकिन यह कैसे हो सकता है कि मशीन आइडिल न पड़ी रहने देने के लिये हम इंसानी मैटीरियल को भूखा रक्खें ? मशीन भले ही इस कदम से आइडिल पड़ जाये, लेकिन हम इंसान को भूखा नहीं रहने दे सकते । इसलिये अगर आप इस देश से अनएम्प्लायमेंट हटाना चाहते हैं, इस देश के गरीब आदमियों का भला करना चाहते हैं तो मेरा कहना है कि आप की पालिसी तो सही है लेकिन उस का इम्पलीमेंटेशन बिल्कुल गलत है । इस किस्म का बिल जैसा कि यह है, उस को तो मैं कभी सपोर्ट नहीं करता अगर उस के अन्दर यह बात नहीं होती कि आज भी हिन्दुस्तान के अन्दर धोतियों की जरूरत है और गरीब आदमी बगैर धोतियों के आप को नंगे देखने को मिलेंगे और आप के सामने वही दृश्य आयेगा जो सन् ४३ में उड़ीसा में देखने को मिला था । महात्मा गांधी जब वहां तशरीफ ले गये तो औरतें घर से बाहर नहीं आती थीं, क्यों कि उन के पास अपना तन ढांकने को कपड़ा नहीं था, मैं नहीं चाहता कि हमारे देशवासियों को फिर वह नजारा देखने को मिले । गवर्नमेंट अन-एम्प्लायमेंट को दूर करना चाहती है तो सीधे तरीके से दूर करे और मैं चाहूंगा कि अगर ऐसा आप कर सकें तो बेहतर, लेकिन कम से कम इस बिल के अगराज के वास्ते फौरन यह दो अमेंडमेंट जरूर मानने चाहियें जो कि मैं पेश कर रहा हूं गोकि मैं जानता हूं कि यह जिस को आप एडीशनल ड्यूटी कह सकते हैं, यह बिल्कुल एक बेअसर चीज है । जहां तक मिल्स का ताल्लुक है, उन पर कोई असर नहीं पड़ेगा, खसूसन उस मिल को जिस कपड़े पर लास होगा, जो उस पर एडीशनल ड्यूटी होगी, वह पबलिक पर पास कर देंगे । इस मौके पर मैं कुछ और ज्यादा अर्ज नहीं करना चाहता, मेरे और बहुत से दूसरे दोस्त बोलने को उत्सुक हैं, इसलिये मैं अपनी बात खत्म करता हूं ।

**Shrimati A. Kale** (Nagpur): Mr. Chairman, I am thankful to you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to say a few words on this Bill. Many of the arguments that I wanted to put forward have already been advanced. One thing that I would like to say at the outset is that I am surprised to find my hon. friend from Bengal advocating the cause of mill-owners from Bengal.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** There are many others.

**Shrimati A. Kale:** Let me tell him that the mill owners are very shrewed, expert business men and what is more, they are very influential. We need not take it upon ourselves to advocate their cause.

With regard to this Bill, I would like to say that in our Standing Committee for Commerce and Industry when the first meeting was held, I had suggested to the hon. Minister that if we want that the handloom industry should survive, we should see that sarees and dhoties are produced by handlooms only and that we should make an advance towards that end..

[PANDIT THAKUR DAS BHARGAVA *in the Chair.*]

I am not arrogant enough to say that the present Bill is the result of my suggestion. But, I am glad to find that the suggestion that was made by me has come into force though partially. At this moment, I would like to request the Government to make an announcement that within a specified period they will see that dhoties and sarees are produced by handlooms only and that mills will not be allowed to produce any dhoties at all.

Secondly, in the definition of dhoties, it has been suggested that they have a coloured border or border of any kind. I have seen dhoties which have no border at all. What I am afraid is this. The mill owners, in their anxiety to make money will make dhoties without borders, or dhoties which have white borders. That also should be included here.

Thirdly, what I would like to suggest is this. A levy of excise duty is not justified. After all, whatever the rate of excise duty will be, it will be recovered from the consumer. As it is, you know, that the consumer is hard hit. The price of dhoties has gone to such an extent that an ordinary man is not able to purchase dhoties. If this additional excise duty is levied, it will mean that the consumer of dhoties will have to take recourse to something else against his wish or desire. What I suggest is that if any mills are found to commit an offence, that is producing dhoties more than 60 per cent, they should be either fined or prosecuted, or the extra material that is produced by the mills should be confiscated by the Government. Whatever is practical or useful, I do not know. But, to levy an excise duty in this fashion is only to penalise the poor consumer. There is a saying in Marathi:

'चोराला सोडून सन्याशाला शिक्षा'

that means that the thief is let off and the innocent man is punished. My earnest request to the Government is that they should find out the means by which the mill owners who are offending parties should be directly punished.

Then, Sir, I would like to say that there is a chance of sarees also being included. In my part of the country, and in some Hindi speaking areas, and even in Bengal, if I mistake not, dhoties include sarees and they are also worn by women. As it is, it is sufficient punishment to the middle classes who use dhoties. By any means, if it is interpreted to include sarees also, then, the women will be hard hit. I request that the Bill may be so revised that only the mill owners who offend may be published. If, in the present Bill, it is found difficult to change excise duty into fine, my request is not to keep the gradation also After all, if the mill produces 12 percent or 50 per cent, the offence is bad enough and the offence is committed not only consciously but knowing full well that they will be able to influence the respective Governments and the respective authorities. Therefore I suggest that the gradation that is given here should be removed and if for some reason

they are not able to fine, the rates of duty should be the same throughout.

More than this, I would not like to say. I agree in principle that some sort of restriction has got to be put on the mill owners producing more; but Government should take care to see that the middle classes who are suffering so badly are not made to suffer more.

**Shri G. D. Somani**: Mr. Chairman, at the very outset, I would like to make it quite clear that I am not in any way opposed to the best possible aid being given to our handloom Industry. If I say a few words about this Bill, it is more from the point of view of the consumers, because, fortunately at least in this case, the interests of the industry and the consumer are quite identical. Therefore, I need not say a single word from the view point of the industry.

So far as the principle of the Bill is concerned, I would first like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the Kanungo Committee which is at present going into this vexed question of the reservation of varieties for the different sectors of our textile production. Since this Committee has been making this enquiry for the last several months, Government could have very well waited for some more time, till the Committee makes its well-considered recommendations about this vexed question, before taking this drastic measure.

Even as things stand at present, as the hon. Minister himself pointed out, and as has been clarified even in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, on the whole most of the mills have complied with the restrictions that were imposed on the production of dhoties, but the fact remains that a few mills, mostly in Bengal and Orissa and other places which are deficit areas, did not comply with those restrictions, and that too with the full concurrence of the respective local Governments. At one stage we were told representations were made from the Bombay Mill Owners' Association....

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari**: I am afraid I have to enter a caveat against the statement made by the hon. Member that any transgression of these restrictions have been made with the full concurrence of the State Governments. That would not be correct. I do not know where the hon. Member gets his information from, but I am in a position to say that no State Government can give its full concurrence to any transgression of these restrictions.

**Shri Gidwani** (Thana): Full or partial?

**Shri Sinhasan Singh**: Did any State Government give partial concurrence?

**Shri K. K. Basu** (Diamond Harbour): Did they give any qualified concurrence?

**Mr. Chairman**: It is possible the restrictions may have been put there with the concurrence of the local Governments, but the hon. Member has said that with the encouragement of the local Governments, some mills have produced more dhoties.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari**: I would at once explain the position. State Governments, some of them, did not favour these restrictions, but that does not mean they were encouraging the mills in their unit to disobey the order. That is not correct. They make a representation. They say that is a point of view which has to be taken into account. I think it is perfectly correct thing to do but I do not think it is correct to say that the State Governments encourage the mills to defy such law.

**Shri G. D. Somani**: So far as my information goes, this Ministry at one stage wanted to prosecute all those mills which produced more than the stipulated quantity, but ultimately it was the State Governments, I think, which refused to comply with the matter.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** Sir, I emphatically protest against a statement of that nature. There was absolutely no refusal and there can be no refusal.

**Shri G. D. Somani:** As a matter of fact, if the restriction as was desired in that order had been complied with, then, I do not think there was any necessity to bring forward this Bill for excise duty. As has been mentioned even in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, Government themselves realised that it is the easier way to achieve their object—to impose this excise duty rather than impose those restrictive measures which have not been carried out. The fact remains that during the recent Puja festival, when there was an acute shortage of dhoties in West Bengal, not only the Government, so far as the information of the industry goes, wanted the mills to produce whatever they could, whatever their capacity was, but they also put a ban on the export of dhoties that were imported into West Bengal by mills from Bombay and Ahmedabad. That shows the determination of the West Bengal Government to ensure supply of dhoties at reasonable prices for the public, and since these restrictive orders ran counter to their determination,—now that the hon. Minister has denied it, I will not say that they encouraged the mills to go against the orders of the Central Government—in any case, they were very anxious that there should be no restriction on the production of mill-made dhoties. And the situation remains, therefore, the same. It is clear, therefore, that the hon. Minister has yielded more to the vocal South than to what the Governments in the North have represented.

To make things clear, I think I cannot do better than quote what the hon. Miniser himself said some time last year:

> "It seems that consumers all over India want mill cloth which is cheaper. We cannot ignore the consumer's interest, which is the primary one with which we are concerned. We cannot ignore it, particularly at a time when he wants more cloth, and we cannot reject this aspect of the question and accept a narrower view."

So, my submission is this, that here, as he himself admits, there is acute difference of opinion among local State Governments. Several such State Governments want that the mills should produce dhoties and sarees to their full capacity and the consumer should get those dhoties and sarees at as cheap a price as possible. And, therefore, whatever policy then Government of India took, either in January in restricting the production of dhoties by the mills, or now in placing this punitive excise duty on the manufacture of dhoties, runs counter to the interests of the consumer which is represented by all these various important State Governments.

My hon. friend from Bengal said: how will the consumer know whether a certain dhoti has been subjected to this abnormal excise duty or not? That is not necessary. Perhaps, he does not know that now there is no control over prices, there is no price stamping, and as such the prices are regulated by supply and demand. Therefore, as soon as this Ordinance was promulgated, in spite of the fact that the prices of other varieties of textiles had been declining precipitously so much so that even the Government have admitted that the industry is faced with a crisis, even in the midst of that crisis, the prices of dhoties have flared up again. Dhoties are sold at a premium, higher than sarees which cost much more for the manufacturer to manufacture, and the position will be further aggravated if these very heavy excise duties which are now contemplated to be imposed on the manufacture of dhoties are implemented.

The fact is, and I would repeat it again, that there are various other more effective ways of assisting the handloom industry. The hon. Minister, while introducing this Bill, did not give any facts or figures as to how

these restrictions on the manufacture of dhoties and sarees upon the mills have benefited the hardloom industry throughout the country. Now that those restrictions have been in operation for a long period it would have been interesting to get some idea whether the penalty which the consumers have been compelled to pay due to these restrictions is really benefiting the handloom weavers or not. This is again a hypothetical question, and so far as the industry's information goes, while the handloom weavers have not benefited to any extent from these measures, the consumers have unnecessarily been penalised. So, the remedy lies in various other things. This is neither the time nor the occasion to go into those various constructive measures by which the Government could assist the handloom industry, and I am glad that they have been doing so in so many directions, especially recently. But imposing these restrictions and this heavy excise duty on the manufacture of an essential commodity is not the way in which they should try to assist the handloom industry.

What is more surprising and inequitable is the fact that this excise duty will operate irrespective of the count or variety of the dhoties concerned. Whether the dhoti concerned is of coarse quality or superfine quality, it will be subjected to the same schedule of punitive excise duties. At least, so far as the common man is concerned, Government would have been very well advised to exempt the coarse and medium varieties from this excise duty. It could be restricted to the superior kinds, and if they liked, they could have imposed a more severe excise duty on the superfine and costlier varieties. From the point of view of the public that would have been more desirable than having a uniform excise duty on all varieties.

Much more could be said about it, but I still hope that at least so far as the millions of people in Northern India are concerned, whose interests have been represented to the hon. Minister by the various State Governments, they will not be ignored in any steps that the Government of India takes to assist the handloom industry.

**श्री अलगू राय शास्त्री** (जिला आजमगढ़—पूर्व व जिला बलिया—पश्चिम): अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप को धन्यवाद देता हूं कि आप ने मुझे इस पर बोलने का अवसर दिया ।

मैं इस बिल के उद्देश्य को समझा ही नहीं कि इस के लाने की क्या आवश्यकता हुई । यह बिल जिस रूप में हमारे सामने आया है उस से वह आदेश-पत्र जिस के द्वारा मिल के कपड़ों के उत्पादन पर कुछ प्रतिबन्ध लगाया गया था कि जिस से हैंडलूम इंडस्ट्री (करघे के उद्योग) को प्रोत्साहन मिले, अपनी आत्मा में और शरीर में दोनों में समाप्त हो जाता है । जो प्रतिबन्ध लगाया गया था वह इस तरह से समाप्त हो जाता है कि अब हम मिलों को यह छूट दे देते हैं कि वह प्रतिबन्ध के आगे चाहे जितना भी कपड़ा पैदा कर सकती है केवल आवश्यकता उन को यह होगी कि वह हमें कुछ कर के रूप में अदा कर दें । मिलों को मुनाफा कमाने की पूरी छूट दी जायगी बशर्ते कि उस मुनाफे में वह सरकार को साझीदार बना लें । तो जो प्रयोजन प्रतिबन्ध लगाने का था वह प्रयोजन कहां रहा ? हैंडलूम इंडस्ट्री का भला हो या बुरा हो सरकार को इस से मतलब नहीं है । सरकार को अब प्रयोजन इस बात से है कि उस के प्रतिबन्ध लगाने के कारण जो मिलों को अधिक कपड़ा बनाने की प्रेरणा हुई है उस प्रेरणा से अनुचित लाभ उठा कर उस मुनाफे में एक अच्छी साझेदारी प्राप्त की जाय । जो लोग मिलों का कपड़ा पहनने के

[श्री अलगू राय शास्त्री]

आदी है जब उन के पास दूसरा कपड़ा नहीं होगा तो वह उन को पहनेंगे और जो मूल्य उसका लगाया जायगा उस मूल्य पर वह उस को खरीदें गे और इस प्रकार से हाथ से कपड़ा बनाकर जीविका चलाने वाले बुनकरों की तबाही हो जायगी । एक समय इंगलिस्तान की छींट और कपड़ों ने इस देश के अच्छे बुने हुए कपड़ों को तबाह कर दिया था और बुनकरों की बहुत बड़ी संख्या तबाह हो गई थी जब कि यहां पर अंग्रेजी साम्राज्य शाही का बोलबाला था और उन का अपना यहां पर व्यापार था । धीरे धीरे फिर लष्टम पष्टम सन् १९२० में महात्मा गांधी ने एक बार फिर हाथ से बुनने वालों और कातने वालों की ओर देश का ध्यान दिलाया । जिस धागे के जरिये इस देश का स्वराज्य चला गया था उसी धागे के जरिये देश का स्वराज्य लेने का नारा उन्होंने बुलन्द किया । उस को सुन कर जैसा कि स्वयं श्रीमान् ने अभी कहा था इस देश मे स्वदेशी भावना पैदा हुई और उस के कारण देश का ध्यान इस ओर गया । पिछले महीनों में जो हमारे बुनकरों की दुर्दशा हमारे सामने आई उस से हमारा ध्यान उस तरफ गया और हम ने हाथ से कपड़ा बनाने वालों की उन्नति के लिये एक योजना बनाई एक कर लगाया और मिलों के कपड़े पर एक प्रतिबन्ध लगाया कि इस हद तक मिलें कपड़ा बनावें और इस से आगे न बनावें । यह इस दृष्टि से किया गया था कि बुनकर बेकारी के चंगुल से बचें और अपनी जीविका प्राप्त कर सकें । अब इस बिल में इस सारी भावना का लोप हो गया है । इस में हम ने केवल, एक ऐडीशनल टैक्स लगा दिया है, लेकिन यह स्पष्ट नहीं किया है कि यह टैक्स किस काम आवेगा । अभी श्रीमान् भी स्वयं यही कह रहे थे और म ने भी इस प्रकार का संशोधन दिया है कि यदि यह बा होती ही है तो कम से कम इस कर से जो आय होने वाली है वह एकमात्र इसी उद्योग पर, जो कि हाथ से कपड़ा बनाने का है, खर्च की जाये और सरकार की दूसरी मदों पर इस का एक पैसा भी व्यय न किया जाय । मगर मैं नहीं समझता कि यह भी उस का सीधा इलाज है । हम उस आमदनी से बुनकरों को कुछ पेंशन दे सकते हैं उनका कुछ गुजारा बांध सकते हैं और सम्भव है कि इस से यह हो सके कि जो कपड़ा वह बना कर लावें वह बाजार में मिल के कपड़े के मुकाबले में खड़ा हो सके और उस के खरीदार मिल सकें और हो सकता है कि वह इस प्रकार मिल वालों से कम्पटीशन कर सकें । मैं जिस क्षेत्र से आता हूं वह बुनकरों का क्षेत्र है । मऊ, मुबारकपुर, कोभागंज, रसड़ा यह जो क्षेत्र हैं बलिया और आजमगढ़ जिलों में, उन के पूर्वी हिस्से में, वहां बुनकरों की बहुत बड़ी तादाद है । वह अच्छे क़िस्म का कपड़ा बुनते थे और बाहर के बाजार में बेचते थे । आज उन के ऊपर एक क्राइसिस है, आज वह संकट काल से गुजर रहे हैं । उन को एक आशा की किरण मिली थी कि एक हद तक उन को कपड़ों का स्वायत्त हासिल हो गया है, ४० प्रतिशत धोती बनाने का उन को अधिकार हो गया है और वही धोतियां बाजार में चलेंगी और वह उन धोतियों को बना कर और बेचकर अपना पेट पाल सकेंगे । सरकार ने यह दिशा दिखाई कि हमारा ध्यान तुम्हारी ओर गया है । वह चीज अभी पूरे तौर पर अमल में भी नहीं आई है । अभी कल हम यह चीज पढ़ रहे थे और अपने निर्वाचन क्षेत्र में लोगों को अपने यह विचार बता रहे थे कि सरकार का ध्यान गरीबों की ओर आकृष्ट हुआ है और बड़ी तादाद को प्राप्त होने वाले दुःख की ओर हमारी दयालु सरकार का ध्यान गया है, प्रजा की सच्ची प्रतिनिधि सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर गया है । अब कल हम यह कहेंगे कि अब कोई प्रतिबन्ध नहीं है ।

मिलों को पूरा अधिकार है कि वह अन्धाधुन्ध कपड़ा बनावें, धोतियां चाहे जितनी बनावें। उन का काम सिर्फ यह है कि कुछ पैसा सरकार को दे दें, और यह भी सही बात है जैसा कि अभी श्रीमान् जी ने ठीक ही कहा कि न केवल हम ने यह किया कि इस प्रतिबन्ध को हटा कर एक केवल ऐडीशनल टैक्स लगा दिया बल्कि हमने यह भी किया कि उस कर को सामान्य रूप से सब पर लगा दिया, चाहे धोती मोटी हो चाहे पतली हो, चाहे उसे अमीर पहनें या गरीब पहनें हम ने सब के ऊपर समान रूप से इस कर को बांट दिया है। मैं तो समझता हूं कि यह तुषार पात है, यह तो गरीबों के ऊपर वज्रपात है और आप इस बिल के द्वारा गरीब जनता की मदद नहीं कर सकते।

हां, यह बात सही है कि आज के युग में हम मिलों को, कारखानों को, महा यानों को, महा यन्त्रों को, नमस्कार नहीं कर सकते हैं। यह नहीं हो सकता कि हम आज बिल्कुल करघे से ही बनी हुई चीजों पर निर्भर रह सकें। आज के युग में यह बात सम्भव नहीं है। यद्यपि मेरे मित्र रामनारायण जी कह रहे थे कि सूत का कातना भी काफी मजदूरी दे देता है, लेकिन श्रीमान् जी, आप के तीस वर्ष के अनुभव का यह नतीजा है, यह परिणाम है, कि वह इतना पेइंग या लाभदायक उद्योग नहीं है। सही बात यह है कि आज के आंधी पानी के युग में, जब कि हवाई जहाज इतनी तेजी से चलता है तो न कोई पैदल चल सकता है और न बैलगाड़ी में चल सकता है। तो यह तो नहीं कहा जा सकता कि मिलों के लोहे को गला कर स्क्रैप आइरन के रूप में बेच दिया जाय। वह तो बिल्कुल काल्पनिक बात रह जायेगी। किन्तु हमें इस के लिये सामंजस्य स्थापित करना है। हाथ के उद्योग धंधों की जो बात थी वह हमें इंडस्ट्रियल रिवोल्यूशन में दिखाई पड़ी जिस का स्पष्ट चित्र हम कैपिटल में पढ़ते हैं कि किस तरह से हाथ के करघे के काम करने वालों ने मिलों को फूंका है, जलाया है। लेकिन आज वही अपने हाथों से मिलों को जलाने वाले लोग मिलों में काम करते हैं और कपड़े को बनाते हैं। तो यह क्रान्ति आई है। उस का नोटिस हम को लेना होगा और उस की हम उपेक्षा नहीं कर सकते। फिर इतनी बड़ी तादाद को तुरन्त, सद्यः, कपड़ा पहुंचा देना भी हमारे सामने बड़ी भारी समस्या है। हमारे मंत्री महोदय ने उसी बात को ध्यान में रख कर कहा था कि लोग कपड़ा चाहते हैं, वह क्या करें। वह उन की बेबसी है। जनता जो चीज चाहती है, उस से हम मुंह मोड़ नहीं सकते। लोग किनारदार धोती पहनना चाहते हैं इस का प्रबन्ध करना है। पहले हाथ के उद्योग धन्धों से काम होता था। गरीब लोग अपने हाथ से चक्की चलाते थे। अमीर औरतें भी चक्की पीसती थीं, आज वह मिलों में जा कर गेहूं पिसवा लेती हैं और अपने हाथों से उन्हों ने काम करना छोड़ दिया तो जो हमारा वर्तमान युग है, जिस को कलयुग कहा जाता है, जो सच्चे मानों में कलियुग है, इस मशीन के युग से हम मुंह नहीं मोड़ सकते। लेकिन हम को इस के लिये सामंजस्य स्थापित करना होगा और उत्पादन बढ़ाना होगा। मुझे याद है श्री जयप्रकाश नारायण जी का वह वाक्य कि हमें उत्पादन बढ़ाने में यह नहीं देखना है कि यह किस तरह से बढ़ेगा। हम नहीं कह सकते हैं कि यह मिलों द्वारा नहीं बढ़ेगा, न यही कह सकते हैं कि हाथ के उद्योग धंधों से नहीं बनेगा। हमें परिस्थितियों के अनुकूल उद्योग धन्धों को बढ़ाना है, उत्पादन की वृद्धि करनी है। चाहे जिस मार्ग से हो हमें उत्पादन बढ़ाना है। उत्पादन बढ़ाने की तरफ हमारा ध्यान जाना चाहिये। जब तक इस के लिये सामंजस्य

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स्थापित नहीं होता तब तक बाजार की दुश्वारी पैदा हो जाती है । हम किसी एक ही चीज के आगे घुटने नहीं टेक देंगे । मैं ने खादी की प्रतिज्ञा ली है तो मैं उस पर चलता हूं । लेकिन मैं इस को पूरी आबादी पर इम्पोज कर दूं, जबरदस्ती लाद दूं, यह सम्भव नहीं है । साथ ही केवल मिलें ही चलेंगी और इन उद्योग धन्धों में लगे हुए लोग भूख से मर जायेंगे यह भी हम नहीं होने देंगे । हम ने अपने मामूली चीनी के व्यापार को विदेश के काम्पीटीशन से बचाने के लिये तरह तरह के संरक्षण दिये । तो इसी तरह इस को संरक्षण देने के लिये भी उद्योग धंधों को संरक्षण देने के लिये भी कुछ न कुछ व्यवस्था करनी पड़ेगी । आज यह जो व्यवस्था की गई है और यह जो आर्डर इश्यू हुआ था, उस को रद्द कर दिया गया, जैसे कि हाथ की मेंहदी शादी की मिटी भी नहीं थी कि वैधव्य दिखाई देने लगा, इस तरह की बात हो गई है । यह आर्डर लगा ही था कि प्रतिबन्ध लगें कि तब तक यह बिल उस आर्डिनेंस को रद्द करने के लिये आ गया है ।

**श्री गाडगील** : यह मेंहदी का क्या हुआ ?

**श्री अलगू राय शास्त्री** : यह आप क्या जानें क्या हुआ, आप यहां नहीं थे ।

**श्री डी० सी० शर्मा** (होशियारपुर) : यह आर्डिनेंस क्या हाथ के लिये मेंहदी होता है ?

**श्री अलगू राय शास्त्री**: जी हां, आर्डिनेंस खूनी तो होता ही है ।

तो मैं यह कह रहा था कि कुछ दिन अभी बीते भी नहीं, अभी लोगों को उस की याद है कि यह चीज आई है, वह प्रतिबन्ध थोड़ा सा ही हुआ कि जिस के द्वारा हम ने सोचा था कि कुछ सहायता हो गई, कि शीघ्र ही यह बिल आ गया है जो उस दिशा में हम को एक कदम भी आगे नहीं ले जाता है । इस तरह यह जो एक हाथ का उद्योग धंधा है उस को यह समाप्त कर देता है । अक्सर हम यह कहते आये हैं, बराबर अनुरोध करते आये हैं कि .....

**श्री गिडवानी** : कोई सुनता ही नहीं है, क्या समझेंगे ।

**श्री अलगू राय शास्त्री** : सब समझेंगे, आप शान्ति से सुनिये ।

**श्री गाडगील** : वह दूसरों के लिये कहते हैं, जनता के लिये, फार बिगर प्लेटफार्म ।

**श्री अलगू राय शास्त्री** : आप श्रीमान् जी मुझे इन बड़े बड़े लोगों से प्रोटैक्शन दीजिये ।

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Member may go on without minding the interruptions.

**श्री अलगू राय शास्त्री** . जैसे यह बिल करघा उद्योग को तबाह करने वाला है, वैसे ही यह दो आदमी मुझे तबाह करने के लिये बैठे हुये हैं ।

मैं यह निवेदन कर रहा था कि खद्दर के उद्योग धन्धे के बारे में हम हमेशा सरकार का ध्यान आकर्षित करते आये हैं कि वह अपने विभागों में तमाम कामों में खद्दर का प्रयोग कर सकती थी । उधर सरकार का ध्यान नहीं गया, इस से उस उद्योग धंधे को काफी धक्का लगा है । हम यह आशा करते थे कि हमारी खादी के प्रोटैक्शन के लिये जो कुछ यहां व्यवस्था की गई थी उस से कुछ उन्नति होगी । हम समझते थे कि उस उद्योग धंधे को उन्नत

किया जायगा और उस को मदद मिलेगी दान दे कर, दान के रूप में या सहायता के रूप में, हम किसी उद्योग धन्धे की रक्षा नहीं कर सकते। हम उद्योग धंधे की रक्षा कर सकते हैं। अगर वह दुर्बल उद्योग धंधा है तो सबल उद्योग धंधे के मुकाबले में उस को कुछ अवकाश दे कर, कुछ भूमि दे कर, कुछ प्रस्थान दे कर जिस से कि वह कुछ आगे बढ़ सके। इस तरीके पर हम यह नहीं समझते कि उस की रक्षा हो सकती है। इस के द्वारा आयी हुई आय को हम हैंडलूम इंडस्ट्री पर खर्च कर दें, वही एक सुझाव मुझे इस समय सामने आता है, अगर यह बिल पास होता है। इस हालत में सिवाय मेरे उस संशोधन के कोई दूसरा रास्ता दिखाई नहीं देता। लेकिन मैं उस को सही रास्ता नहीं मानता। सही रास्ता तभी होगा जब कि सचमुच मिलों के उत्पादन पर कुछ प्रतिबन्ध लगाया जाय और करघे के उद्योग धंधे को पनपने और बढ़ने का अवसर दें।

तो मैं इस बिल के उस भाग के विरुद्ध हूं जिस हद तक कि यह बिल उस आर्डिनेंस को जो पहले था उस को यह रिपील कर रहा है। उस आदेश पत्र को जिस के द्वारा कि प्रतिबन्ध लगाया गया था मिलों के कपड़े पर, जिस हद तक यह बिल रिपील करता है, उस में जहां तक यह बाधा डालता है, उस का मैं सर्वथा अस्वागत करता हूं। मैं चाहता हूं कि कोई न कोई प्रतिबन्ध अवश्य हो : इस सामंजस्य को स्थापित करने के लिये बहुत शान्ति से सोचने की आवश्यकता है कि कहां तक हम हमारी जनता की जो आवश्यकता है, जो हमारी इतनी बड़ी आबादी की आवश्यकता है, उस आवश्यकता की पूर्ति में बाधक न हों और उन को कपड़े के अभाव में परेशा न न होने दें। एक तरफ उस की तरफ हम को ध्यान देना होगा। दूसरी तरफ अपने उस उद्योग धंधे को जो आज संरक्षण के बिना चल नहीं सकता। क्योंकि मिलों की चीत्कार और चीख पुकार में, उस की आवाज कारखानों में तूती की आवाज कौन सुनेगा, किन्तु वह हाथ के उद्योग धंधे वाले रहेंगे कहां और खायेंगे क्या, तो उस के लिये हम को सामंजस्य स्थापित करने के लिये भी प्रयत्न करना है। तो इस दृष्टि से यह बिल स्वीकार नहीं होना चाहिये और इस को रिजैक्ट कर देना चाहिये।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं समाप्त करता हूं।

**Shri G. H. Deshpande** (Nasik—Central): I rise to support the Bill, but at the same time I would like to place before this hon. House the special circumstances that prevail in my constituency and State in this respect.

Sir, in Bombay State there are very big weavers' centres wherein the weaving industry is undertaken by a large number of people who depend for their livelihood on that industry. For instance, in my constituency, Malgaon is a big weaving centre. Sholapur is one of the biggest weaving centres in India. Ichalkaranji is also an important centre of weavers in the Deccan and Bhiwandi is also a centre of importance. If we take into consideration the present measure, as placed before this honourable House, it gives no relief, no protection to all these weavers, for they do not weave dhoties and the protection to dhoties will not serve the purpose which is in view so far as the weavers in my State are concerned. They take to weaving sarees and mostly in Deccan, almost all the women prefer handloom sarees to mill-made sarees. So far as I know, the same condition prevails in Madhya Pradesh.

**Shri Radhelal Vyas** (Ujjain): Madhya Bharat.

**Shri G. H. Deshpande**: I do not know about that.

What I would like to place before this hon. House, Sir, is that the weavers in my State also are in a miserable condition.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy**: Miserable everywhere.

**Shri G. H. Deshpande**: There is adequate cloth in the market At the same time, there is no relief to the weavers. They remain unemployed. So we must think seriously of this situation and we must have, I am definitely of the view, a better measure which will meet the object in view. The present measure may be a good measure in itself, but it will not achieve the object it wants to unless and until it is further amended substantially.

6 P.M.

So what I want to place before this h-- . House is that if you want to give protection to weavers, it is a very good object. Everybody is with you so far as that is concerned. But, at the same time please do not be under the impression that by means of this measure you will be giving any amount of relief to weavers in my constituency and State. They are in need of some relief; they are in a very miserable plight; something is being done for giving them some relief by the State Government with the aid of the Central Government. I do not want to place before this House that their case is altogether forgotten by this Government or the State Government. They are trying to look after their interest. But the method by which both the State Government and the Central Government are trying to solve this problem of the weavers is not going to benefit them or is not going to solve the problem That must be realised and the sooner it is realised the better it is.

So, Sir, I would like to say that if you want to restrict the production of *dhoties* and give relief to certain weavers who take to *dhoties*, do it by all means. I am whole-heartedly for that. But, at the same time, why not restrict the production of *saris* also which will give protection to a large number of weavers who are taking to *saris* since generations. That is the thing that I want to place before the House. And, do not delay this measure. If you are out to give some relief to the weavers, do something substantial by which a large number of weavers will get some benefit. So, that is the thing that I want to place before this hon. House.

Ever since this Ordinance was in force, whenever I had some contacts with the weaving community in my constituency and in my State, this general grievance was spoken of by them and I do want to place all this in all seriousness before this hon. House and I would request, Sir, through you, the hon. Minister to take into consideration this and see that the weavers from my State will get something substantial without delay.

**Dr. Krishnaswami** (Kancheepuram): Mr. Chairman, The House must be thankful to the Minister for Commerce and Industry for having so tactfully avoided the issue of whether the handloom industry has been benefited or not. This is on its face a simple Bill. From one point of view there is no need to have a debate on it. But in the Statement of Objects and Reasons it is suggested that the Government intends to assist the handloom industry and has on this account passed an order restricting the production of *dhoties* by mills to 60 per cent. of their average monthly production during the period April, 1951 to March 1952.

I should like, at the outset, Sir, to point out that the prosperity of the handloom industry has to be taken into account by any Government which has the interests and welfare

of large masses of our countrymen at heart. I come, Sir, from a constituency in which there are a large number of handloom weavers. The prosperity of the area in which the handloom weavers live is enextricably bound up with the prosperity of the handloom industry. The Government passed an order some time ago restricting the production of mills to about 60 per cent. of their original production and the advisers of Government thought that by this order of reservation, they had done their duty by the Handloom industry. What has happened? How far has the Handloom industry benefited? The question of internal protection is one which cannot be lightly suggested as a panacea for the evils, which afflict small scale industries. I regret very much to say that many of the anticipations that some of us entertained regarding internal protection have not materialised in the least. I would like to point out to my hon. friends here that the dhoti as we know it is different from the dhoti as embodied in this bill. With your permission, Mr. Chairman, I should like to read out the definition of a Dhoti. It reads as follows:

" 'dhoti' means any type of grey or bleached cloth of plain weave which—

(i) is manufactured by a mill either wholly from cotton or partly from cotton and partly from any other material:

(ii) contains coloured yearn on its borders:

(iii) has a width ranging between twenty-eight inches and fifty-four inches; and

(iv) is commonly known by that name."

Now, Sir, it is open to any mill to aviod or rather evade the restriction imposed by Government by not having coloured yarn on the borders of a Dhoti. We provide internal protection for the handloom weaver and yet it will not be possible for him to take advantage of it because it is open to the mill industry to produce a dhoti without necessarily having coloured yarn on its border. This is what has occured in many instances. It may be argued with some justification that it is impossible to bring within the confines of a legislative enactment the various definitions of a 'dhoti' or a 'sari'. But, I suggest that if we are to have any internal protection, we have to take into account not merely the interests of the handloom industry, but also the resistances that we have to meet from the consumer and find out ways and means of over coming such resistances. We have been talking—some of us at any rate—of protecting the handloom industry and of giving it an assured market. We have been suggesting numerous restrictions being placed either on mills or mill-made goods. An eminent man in my state has suggested that these restrictions can be implemented by Government in a manner helpful to the handloom industry only if it is willing to incur the wrath of mill-owners. Now, this is not a question of displeasing mill-owners or pleasing the handloom weaver but the question of taking into account the interests of the mill industry as a whole, the consumers and the handloom weavers. If you do not take account of the economic position of the mill industry, the consumers' tastes and preferences which certainly tend to be eccentric, then all measures that we seek to introduce to benefit the handloom weaver will have their purpose defeated. I know, for instance, that as a result of this restriction order, there has not been any significant increase in employment of the handloom weavers; there has not been any significant increase in the prosperity of the handloom weavers in many of these regions. This by itself should give cause for serious thinking. I do not affirm for a moment that internal protection does not have its place in our economy. Of course, we must have internal protection: but, we also ought to see that the hand-

[Dr. Krishnaswami]

loom weaver takes advantage of this internal protection and produces goods which would give satisfaction to the consumer as well.

We have too long based policies on the hypothesis, Mr. Chairman, that the mill industry is something totally different from the handloom industry and is opposed to the interests of the handloom weavers. I, Sir, hold an entirely different view. In speaking thus I am not holding a brief for the mill-owner. I think the time has arrived when we should take advantage of the organisation of the mill industry for the purpose of promoting greater organisation among the handloom weavers. If along with internal protection, along with reservation of certain categories, we had concentrated on giving the mill industry a stake in promoting the prosperity of the handloom weavers, then undoubtedly there would have been witnessed a change in the position of the handloom weaver. This idea was broached by me once before on the floor of this House. I pleaded with the Government that the clothier system ought to be adopted by the mills and implemented so that the lot of the handloom weaver might be improved. We ought to pass a law whereby it would be obligatory on the part of our mills to allocate a proportion of their yarn to the handloom weavers, purchase finished goods and make themselves responsible for merchandising and other risks which are inherent in the purchase and sale of textile goods. The handloom weaver, as we know, Mr. Chairman, is very poor; he has no reserves to fall back on. Unless we have an organisation to bring these goods to the market, and sell them in the market, it would not be possible for the handloom weaver to benefit from internal protection. Internal protection would be of value only when the handloom weaver can take advantage of it. If we do not supplement this policy of internal protection without bringing about an organisation of handloom weavers, then we would be making the rost of textiles to the consumer prohibitive and possibly make him change his preferénces in favour of articles which do not enjoy protection.

After all the mill industry has an organisation and I do not see any reason why by law in a Welfare State we should not compel it to reserve a proportion of its yarn for the handloom weaver. Let yarn be given to the handloom weaver, let the finished product be obtained from him and let the mills be responsible for selling these goods in the market. This system may sound somewhat revolutionary to those who have not given sufficient thought to the problem of organisation of handloom weavers After all, the handloom industry is in a bad state, not only financially but also organisationally. About 15 or 16 years ago, the proportion of master weavers to handloom weavers was in the ratio of 1:40. To-day it runs in the ratio of 1:200. If the mill industry could be compelled by law to take an interest, they would play a better role than the master weavers played in the past. I know that the new responsibilities which mills are compelled to shoulder would raise many many far-reaching issues, of a new labour policy for cottage industries which we would have to go into. So far as the handloom weavers are concerned, theirs is a cottage industry, and many of the provisions of the industrial disputes Act would have to be radically modified. The textile industry, let us not forget, consists not only of the mill industry but also of handloom weavers who have a notable part to play. I am not one of those who holds the view that the handloom weaver has no future in the new set-up. It might be true that for certain types or grades of handloom cloth, there is no future at all in the new set-up, but taking an over all view of the situation and taking into account the possibilities of improvement in the organisation of

weavers, I do suggest, Mr. Chairman, that there is a great chance of their playing a significant part in supplying the needs of the consumer. After all, the types of consumers to whom they cater would be quite different. People speak of improvements being effected in handloom designs. How is the improvement to come about unless there is a proper organisation of the handloom industry? I think that a new system of this type would give the Handloom weaver an opportunity of improving their designs. The mills would be able to study the tastes of consumers, set up a research organisation to improve the patterns of cloth manufactured by the handloom weaver, and spend money on having an assured market. The Handloom industry instead of being a weak and sickly thing would become healthy and what is termed as a 'desperate remedy' may eventually be the precursor of radical and sound measures. I know that when the Government introduced this order, it did so because there was a great outcry from many parts of the country, notably from the south, that the handloom weavers should be protected. Some amongst us thought that internal protection was an El Dorado which would work wonders for the handloom weaver. But today we are in a position to affirm that it has not worked wonders and will not work wonders unless internal protection is linked up with a variant of the clothier system. So far as this Bill is concerned, I should like to point out that it is a punitive measure which does, to a certain extent, hit hard those mills which have been producing cloth in excess of the quantities scheduled. Certainly when the mills are concentrated in one particular area, I should recommend enforcement of penal measures only as a last resort. I am aware that the Minister of Commerce and Industry in his opening speech pointed out that he did not wish to enter into the question of whether we were assisting the handloom industry or whether this measure had been sufficient for the purpose of protecting the handloom industry. He probably was reluctant to have a wide debate on a question which might rove from the origins of our handloom industry to its present state of decadence. But I would like to point out that if we are going to have genuine assistance meted out to the handloom industry we must think of positive constructive measures which tend to put the handloom industry on its feet, which tends to give it a new organization and which gives it a new hope. That help will be given only if we bring about a better organization, and I cannot for myself see any better organisation than the mill industry for this purpose, and compelling it by law to play the role of a merchant and a provider of yarn to the hand-loom weavers. Probably, after two or three years of the new reform, we would be in a better position to realize how far internal protection allied to the clothier system works in our economy and probably this experience might be valuable for throwing a new light on the manner in which we can reconcile the small scale and large scale industries of our country.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wholeheartedly welcome this measure because this is a gesture of good will to the handloom industry and it also shows the continued interest and sympathy of the Government of India to the handloom industry. But that does not show that this Bill fully satisfies the needs of the handloom industry. Before I go into the Bill itself, I would like to ask for certain clarifications on certain important points. I have a copy of the executive order which has been passed in January, 1953, which has been issued by the Textile Commissioner, presumably under the direction of the Minister of Commerce and Industry. This order is issued under the Cotton Textiles (Control) Order, 1948. What I wish to know is, how was it possible for any mill to transgress the limits stated by that order. The Textile Commissioner, under the Textile Control Order, is clothed with enormous powers for enforcing his order. He has

[Shri S. V. Ramaswamy]

got the Central Excise Department also with him. And so far as I know, in Madras State the Central Excise officials are there in the mill itself. They are given an office and from day to day they check the quantity of production.

I do not know about Bengal or Bombay—whether these mills referred to in the Statement of Objects and Reasons have any connection with the mills in these States—but wherever they may be, I take it that the excise officials were also there, within the premises of the mills in Madras, and if that is so, how did they allow the mills to produce beyond the quota? I am not merely fighting for a technical point. If an executive order is passed and there are officers of the Government to see that the mills conform to those orders, how is it that these orders were disobeyed? The House is thankful to the hon. Minister for assuring the House that his Department did not wink at it. True enough, but how was it done? Did not the excise officials report to the superior authorities and say: "Here is a mill which is exceeding the limits set for it by that order." I also fail to understand why the Textile Commissioner, who is clothed with such enormous powers in that order, did not call those mills to order by launching prosecutions? The hon. Minister said they contemplated prosecutions, but they did not wish to take punitive measures. I do not know why. The orders of Government have got to be respected; they have got to be enforced. And they have got a department for enforcement also in the Textile Commissioner's office.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** It has been abolished.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** I do not see why there has been a soft corner for those mill-owners who deliberately flouted the orders of the Textile Commissioner. I hope the hon. Minister will explain how these lapses occurred; how the law of the land was not enforced in the case of mill-owners. I believe his explanation also will be satisfactory.

Now I come to the other point, Sir. The Statement of Objects and Reasons refers to the order passed with regard to the 60 per cent. of the production. It said that the production of dhoties is to be restricted to the production between April 1951 and March 1952. It is common knowledge, Sir, that that was the period when the mills were having peak production and as the hon. Minister himself admitted it was during this period that 50,000 bales were produced. When the executive order was passed that the production should be restricted to 60 per cent. of that peak period, it is common knowledge, Sir, that no benefit whatsoever was given to the handloom industry, because the enormous production was somewhere between 25,000 bales.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** May I, on a point of information, mention to the hon. Member who does not know apparently what has been happening, that prior to May 1952 Government insisted that 50 per cent. of the wide-width looms should be used for *saris* and *dhoties* only. While we are now attempting to restrict production there was a period when we insisted that there must be maximum production of *saris* and *dhoties*. Prior to May, 50 per cent. of the wide width looms had to produce *saris and dhoties*.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Nevertheless, Sir, I am correct in maintaining that this order did not confer any benefit upon the handloom industry, because the production was so high that even this restrictive order did not give any help to the handloom industry.

**Dr. M. M. Das:** For other reasons.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** That position stands quite correct and I am not wrong there.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** So you say!

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Now, the other point that I wish to urge is this. The Handloom Development Act which was passed in April 1953 gives powers to levy a cess on all cloth. I am reading Section 3, Sir:

> "There shall be levied and collected on all cloth manufactured on or after the appointed day in the torritories......".

When such powers were given by this Parliament and there was such a loud demand from the South particularly for the reservation itself of *dhoties* and *saris,* I do not know why the Ministry thought of passing this order restricting production only to *dhoties*.. They could have taken advantage of the powers given by this Parliament under that Act and passed a similar order with respect to *saris* as well.

Why I am so earnest about this matter is this. From the Statistics of Monthly Abstract published by the Government of India I see that the position is somewhat peculiar. This is of August, 1953:

> "*Dhoties* seem to be an inconsiderable part in the total production of the mills, compared to *sarees*".

I shall stand corrected if I am wrong, but I assume that the column describing "coloured piecegoods" in the Monthly Abstract refers to *sarees*. Because, there is one column which says *Chaddhars,* another *Dhoties,* the third Drills and *Zins,* the fourth, Shirting and Long cloth, the fifth Cloth domestic and Sheetings, and the sixth is Coloured Piecegoods. I take it it is this last category which represents *sarees*. I shall stand corrected if I am wrong.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** It refers to shirts.

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** There is another separate category "Shirting and Long cloth". I take it that even if this column does not refer entirely to *sarees* at least a major portion of these figures must refer to *sarees*.

Now, Sir, I shall take the figures that have been given for 1952 October, November and December. The total production of mills in October 1952 was 378·8 million yds. Of this 88·6 million is *dhoties* and 109·2 million refers to coloured piecegoods. In November 1952 the total production was 393·3 million yds. Of this 79·2 million refers to *dhoties* and 124·4 million refers to coloured piecegoods. In December 1952 the total production increased still further, and correspondingly coloured piecegoods also. The production increased up to 441·9 million yds. Of this 90·2 million is *dhoties* whereas coloured piecegoods went up to 134·8 million. The figures for *dhoties* and coloured piecegoods for 1953 are not available even in this latest volume of statistics.

**Shri T. T. Krishnamachari:** If the hon. Member wants details about the production of *dhoties* and *sarees*, I shall give them to him. Why does he offer surmises about figures which he does not understand?

**Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Sir, may I continue?

**Mr. Chairman:** The hon. Member evidently wants more time. There is also no quorum in the House. I adjourn the House till 1-30 P.M. tomorrow.

*The House then adjourned till Half Past One of the Clock on Wednesday, the 25th November, 1953.*